



**2015 Northern Development Ministers Forum  
“Build North: Infrastructure, Partnerships, and Innovations”  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
June 23 – 25, 2015**

**Summary of Proceedings**

**Member Jurisdictions**

Yukon  
Northwest Territories  
Nunavut  
British Columbia  
Alberta  
Saskatchewan  
Manitoba  
Ontario  
Quebec  
Newfoundland and Labrador  
Canada (Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada)

**Wednesday, June 24, 2015**

**Call to Order – 8:40am**

The Chair, Minister Hassard, welcomed delegates to Yukon and called the meeting to order.

**Opening Prayer**

Kwanlin Dün First Nation Elder, Dianne Smith of Whitehorse, Yukon led the welcoming prayer.

**Welcoming Remarks by Yukon — 2015 Forum Overview**

Minister Hassard welcomed delegates and guests to the Forum. He acknowledged that they were on the Traditional Territory of both the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta’an Kwäch’än Council. He noted the purpose of the meeting was twofold:

- To focus on renewing the Forum’s purpose and direction.
- To work to advance the development of the North. The theme “Build North” was chosen because the forum’s role in determining priorities and collaborating for the future is crucial to the North’s collective success.

**Jurisdictional Opening Remarks**

Ministers and representatives reviewed economic development initiatives and capacity building in their respective jurisdictions. In conjunction with the theme of building



partnerships, there was an emphasis on the importance of strengthening Aboriginal relationships and that they are included in the decision-making process.

Other highlights:

- Gaps in transportation infrastructure — highways and roads, air links, marine services — are barriers for isolated Northerners to participate in economic opportunities and access essential services.
- Northerners face similar issues: diversified economic development, job creation and the need for a skilled and educated workforce.
- Need to support community-based, sustainable economies.
- Mining and exploration sector: boom-and-bust cycles of mining a challenge.
- Importance of protection of the environment and water quality.

**Summary of Fort McMurray Proceedings/Record of Decision** — Helen Booth, Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Economic Development, Yukon

The Record of Decision from the September 2013 NDMF in Fort McMurray, Alberta was accepted as presented.

**Presentation: Plan Nord** — Deputy Minister Robert Sauvé, Société du Plan Nord, Québec

An overview was provided of the recently re-released *Plan Nord*. The plan is an integrated development strategy for northern Québec, using a sustainable-development approach based on partnerships. The relaunched plan provided updated policy direction while retaining the plan's essential elements and obligations. The plan provides a vision to 2035.

**Presentation: Energy and Mines Ministers' Compendium of Good Practice** — Honourable Scott Kent, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (EMR), Yukon

Key findings were presented from *Good Practices in Community Engagement and Readiness: Compendium of Case Studies From Canada's Minerals and Metals Sector* that was released last August at the EMMC in Sudbury, Ontario.

The Compendium uses the mineral development sequence as the framework for the case studies since efforts to improve community engagement and readiness are unique for each community, project and stage along the mineral development sequence.

Next steps include further dissemination of the research and continuing to develop additional case studies on good practices that will provide the foundation of the research agenda for the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Mineral Industry leading up to the Energy and Mines Ministers' Conference to take place in Halifax.

**Report on Benefit Agreements Project** — Andrew Buchel, Senior Research Manager, PRA Inc.

Opening remarks were provided by MLA Victoria Jurgens, Legislative Secretary for the Saskatchewan Ministry of Government Relations the lead jurisdiction on the project.

Mr. Buchel provided a background on Benefit Agreements which are typically contractual agreements between industry proponents — who are looking to have sustainability and security about investments in resource development and profitable business activity — and Aboriginal communities that are interested in getting benefits from having these investment opportunities taking place on or near their communities.

### **Phase I Findings:**

- A marked increase in the use of Benefit Agreements, in recent year, to undertake development activity throughout Canada.
- No strong link between the type of resource activity taking place or jurisdiction, and Benefit Agreements.
- In absence of specific government policy with regard to negotiation of Benefit Agreements, generally voluntarily entered into.
- Benefits that are typical of these agreements: jobs and associated training; business contracts for a local community during development process; environmental considerations were important in context of negotiated Benefit Agreements.
- Challenges: Benefit Agreements are generally confidential. Was difficult in Phase I context to put together a systematic review of the types of benefits or the nature of benefit agreements in a more general, broadly applicable sense.

### **Phase II Will Explore:**

- Expectations among participants.
- Objective realized benefits over time.
- The role governments could potentially play in supporting Benefit Agreements.
- Negotiation process for Benefit Agreements.
- Implementation process.

### **Phase II Approach:**

- Includes a literature review examining Benefit Agreements policy documentation, studies, discussion papers in order to provide legal and policy context for Benefit Agreements and how it could influence either the negotiation or implementation over time or benefits that might accrue to participating parties.
- Will focus on 25 Benefit Agreements operating in eight different jurisdictions in Canada.
  - Selection process quite specific and will include: a range of different sectors where the development activity would take place; reasonable coverage across the country; a range of communities participating; ensuring that jurisdictions had input into selection of various Benefit Agreements.
- Core work involves interviews with both community and industry representatives to get both perspectives on negotiation and implementation process.

### **Next Steps:**



- Literature review largely completed.
- Interviews are ongoing; expected to be completed in fall.
- Draft report expected in fall and final report will be presented to NDMF and shared with EMMC colleagues.
- Goal is to disseminate report as soon as it has received sign-off rather than to wait a whole year until next Forum to discuss the results.

**Report on Innovating Development Project** — Helen Booth, Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Economic Development, Yukon

Ms. Booth presentation's emphasized the submissions made by the member jurisdictions to the project. NDMF presents a unique opportunity to highlight some of those solutions, both technology and knowledge driven and allowing for diversification and dynamic partnerships, fuelling northern growth by the North, for the North.

The Innovating Development report was created from submissions by governments and showcases examples of innovative projects across the North.

There were four broad categories that were proposed for examination: infrastructure, financing, community development, policy or legislation. After review of the submitted projects, it was indicated that challenges faced were common across the North and were even more basic than the categories were proposed. They were all rooted in the most basic issues:

- Overcoming distance
- Producing energy
- The vast landscapes
- Making connections across the North

Projects submitted demonstrated are examples of partnership and collaboration, and they've shown that the North can keep up and thrive, despite its unique considerations.

The Report on Innovating Development Project was accepted as presented.

*(The Honourable Scott Kent, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Yukon was Acting Chair for the remainder of the Forum)*

**Panel: Managing Change** — Steve Rose, Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations/Economic Development, Yukon

The panel discussed the impacts that large-scale natural resource developments have on Canada's North and examined the frameworks and processes that are required to positively manage these changes. By examining the impacts these large projects have on northern regions, using a lessons-learned approach, it was hoped the information would assist regions to better prepare for development.

- **Community Perspective:** Aubrey Gover, Deputy Minister of Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Mr. Gover's presentation showed what some municipalities have done in cooperation with other stakeholders to manage change in the iron-ore industry in Labrador West through its previous peak and present downturn, especially with regard to the ripple effect of social and economic impacts. A regional taskforce was created, comprised of representatives from federal and provincial government departments, municipalities, and mining companies operating in the region.

- **Aboriginal Perspective:** Kelli Taylor, Director of First Nation Relations and Capacity Development, Aboriginal Relations, Executive Council Office, Yukon; and Tina Brobby, Director, Implementation and Reconciliation, Aboriginal Relations, Executive Council Office, Yukon

Ms. Brobby presented the history of Yukon self-government and final agreements and their economic impacts. With regard to major resource projects, First Nations are engaging with proponents to negotiate impact benefit agreements. First Nation development corporations allow First Nations to invest, partner or manage businesses, which brings in economic diversification.

Ms. Taylor's presentation focused on social impacts. The final and self-government agreements position Yukon First Nation governments to take advantage of economic opportunities while also managing any additional social impacts that may come from the economic highs. They are involved in reforming child welfare legislation, policy and practices. They have instituted nationally recognized land-based addictions and mental health recovery programs. She also detailed the collaboration between Yukon government and Yukon First Nations on training and capacity development initiatives.

- **Industry Perspective:** Tom Hoefler, Executive Director of NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines

Mr. Hoefler's presentation highlighted the benefits of growth and used the example of NWT diamond mining, which has created significant economic success for the territory, the government with a decrease in social assistance and unemployment payments, and Aboriginal groups who share in royalties. Government provides training and apprenticeship support and support for business development, but they did not create and maintain an attractive and certain regulatory framework — for example, how to fulfill Aboriginal duty to consult. He suggested government could help by:

- Increasing investment certainty by continuing with regulatory reforms, settle outstanding land claims, improving land access.
- Reducing costs by incremental builds, seeking other partners e.g. Aboriginal governments, reduce cost of living.
- Create a 25-percent federal mineral exploration tax credit for the North, which is presently at 15 percent for Canada.



- Put mine training into school curriculum.
- Help with social impacts: money management training, pardons for those with criminal records.

**Recommendations:**

1. Finalize the project as it has fulfilled its mandate;
2. Post the presentations and supplement on the NDMF public site upon ratification by Ministers; and
3. Each NDMF member distribute the material from the project to relevant departments and agencies.

Ministers accepted the recommendations .

**Guest Presentation: National Aboriginal Economic Development Board** — Ms. Hilda Broomfield-Letemplier, Chair, National Aboriginal Economic Development Board

Ms. Broomfield-Letemplier spoke about the opportunities presented in opening up the North through infrastructure development and the importance of involving First Nations and Aboriginal partners in the discussion. With this in mind, the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board commissioned the *Study on Addressing the Infrastructure Needs of Northern Aboriginal Communities*, which looked at key infrastructure deficits by region across the North.

**Guest Presentation: Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce** — Brian MacDonald

Mr. MacDonald's presentation provided background on the formation of the Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce, outlining its planned role in helping to promote communication, dialogue and collaboration between the development corporations, as they look to derive real value for their shareholders, government and industry.

**The meeting adjourned for the day at 3:50 p.m.**

**Thursday, June 25, 2015**

**Reconvening of Meeting**

The Acting Chair, Minister Kent, called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

**Presentation: NDMF Terms of Reference Review and Discussion of the Phased Approach** — Helen Booth, Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Economic Development, Yukon

Following the cancellation of the September 16 – 18, 2014 NDMF in Whitehorse, due to a lack of quorum — which was currently vaguely defined in the Terms of Reference as requiring seven jurisdictions in attendance — the former Minister of Economic Development for Yukon wrote to member jurisdiction ministers seeking their views on the future of NDMF; proposing that its Terms of Reference be renegotiated and a planning document be developed with the purpose of making future Forums more

valuable, engaging and outcomes oriented. After a series of discussions between ministers, deputy ministers and senior officials, there were outlined a series of topics for review, including the Objectives of the Forum and how those Objectives are translated into meaningful action.

Ms. Booth described the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference that came about from a line-by-line review by the Senior Officials Working Group in January.

### **Phase 1: Revisions to the Terms of Reference**

- **Mandate:** confirmed as very important and there were no recommended changes. They wanted to keep the over-arching values and the mandate in the Forum but increase the focus on addressing complex issues contained in Priority Projects as well as focusing on new hot-button issues to make sure the jurisdictions are interacting more frequently with the Forum. The agenda was shared widely beforehand with input from all members so the agenda would be interesting and relevant.
- **Structure and Process:** Forum maintained as a political-level event and structured as such; so confirming the foundation of the intergovernmental table as consensus-based which would be specified in the Terms of Reference.
- **Quorum requirement:** Hosts still encouraged to plan for the highest levels of attendance, but the removal of formal quorum language limits the potential of a last-minute cancellation due to one jurisdiction being unable to send a minister. All jurisdictions' attendance at the Forum will be permitted to have a representative sit at the table as their delegated authority.
- **Deputy ministers recommended that Senior Officials track attendance and come back in two years to see if representation has changed and if quorum requirement needed to be examined again.**
- **Where possible, jurisdictions should seek greater involvement of their deputy ministers and ministers, especially with regard to priority selection and agenda.**
- **Accomplishing priorities through more panels and presenters and less longer-term reports.**
- **Logistics:** Senior officials' discussion following immediately after Forum instead of waiting three months. Will help the next Forum in its chairmanship.
- **Working to better integrate and develop better connections with other FPT tables.**
- **Flexibility on dates:** up to 18 months between Forums; shorten and streamline Forum.
- **Senior Officials will meet closer to the Forum**
- **Priority Projects:** should be focused on addressing issues that are social or economic in nature.
- **Location of Forum at the discretion of host**

The changes to the NDMF 2015 Terms of Reference were accepted as presented.

### **Phase 2: Planning Framework General Approach**

- Senior Officials are working to ensure the Action Plan focuses on having priorities worked in as well as an engagement and consultation process. It consisted of mainly the Terms of Reference for Priority Projects; want to turn it into a longer-term document that reflects how the Forum interacts with other tables in a more effective way.
- One of the biggest issues with the current Forum is there is no permanent Secretariat. It's difficult to continue some of the longer engagement processes. Goal to outline a new priority-setting process that is more inclusive, that focuses on connections between mandates.
- In the past, Senior Officials would bring forward two or three previously approved projects, ministers would approve and then the work begins. Need for more engagement at the table to discuss what is of current interest.

There was the suggestion to incorporate tracking the outcomes from the Forums so there are examples of what the Forum has achieved in terms of successes. Ms. Booth responded that a tracking document was started for this year with an outcomes report and it would be enhanced every year.

The work on Phase 2 was approved.

### **Discussion: 2016 Priorities**

Minister Kent outlined the process for Priority Projects in years past, but due to the changes to the Terms of Reference, a more inclusive process has been developed that combines the established approach with a broader discussion among the Forum, based on general interests with the conclusion that the projects can be supported by the traditional research paper but also through a presentation, a panel or an experience at the next Forum.

New Priority Projects:

- Manitoba: "Northern Food Security" Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
  - Recommendation to include consideration of the federal Nutrition North program and how its subsidies affect local food producers.
- Alberta and Québec: "Strengthening Working Relationships between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Governments When Considering Northern Development"
  - Suggestion that it also be examined through the lens of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report.

The Forum confirmed these as Priority Projects for 2016 along with Saskatchewan taking the lead on the continued work on the Benefit Agreements Project.

- **Brief Discussion of NDMF Outcomes**

This is the first forum that an outcome report has been present would become more fulsome, as outcomes are tracked and monitored by Senior Officials.





- **Overview of Financial Trust Account**

Minister Kent reviewed the report on the activity of the Financial Trust Account for which Manitoba has the responsibility.

**2016 Host Remarks** — Honourable Monica Ell, Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Nunavut

The theme for the 2016 NDMF is “Northern Development: A Land of Opportunities.” A video was shown of highlights of Nunavut. Minister Ell confirmed Nunavut’s intention to host the NDMF in 2016.

**Approval of 2015 NDMF Communiqué and Pictures**

Ministers agreed to release a joint news communiqué — see annex.

**Concluding Remarks by Jurisdictions**

There was appreciation to the Yukon delegation for hosting the Forum and the hospitality displayed, as well as to the Québec delegation for the Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day reception.

There were many comments on the value of the Forum, such as: the importance of meeting together to discuss the unique challenges that face the northern regions, as the only FPT meeting that focuses solely on northern issues, it is important that it continues.

- It is the pre-eminent vehicle for intergovernmental collaboration to advance priorities in the North so it can reach its full social and economic potential.
- It was good to see such a focus on Aboriginal participation.
- It was gratifying to see the linkages and the commonalities in terms of issues that the North is dealing with.
- The mandate to “identify with the appropriate Federal-Provincial/Territorial (FPT) table and/or provide leadership on strategic actions that will advance the socio-economic development of the North” was a key strategic way to look at how the Forum could be effective and hopefully a lot of action would be derived from that.
- It was pointed out the Forum doesn’t get enough attention for what it can offer and there are tremendous opportunities coming out of it to report to other FPTs.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

The appendices include the:

- Meeting Agenda;
- Delegate Listing; and
- Communiqué

**Appendix A:****2015 Northern Development Ministers Forum  
June 24 – 25, 2015  
Agenda****Tuesday, June 23, 2015**

Arrival day

6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Welcome Reception hosted by Minister Hassard  
Conference registration will be available at reception.  
(*MacBride Museum*)

**Wednesday, June 24, 2015**

7:15 – 8:30 a.m. Registration Desk open for Conference Participants  
7:30 – 8:30 Ministers' Private Breakfast (*Library, High Country Inn*)  
Breakfast Buffet for Officials (*Room B, High Country Inn*)  
8:30 – 9:00 Open Forum Proceedings (*Room A, High Country Inn*)  
Opening Prayer by Kwanlin Dün First Nation  
Elder Dianne Smith  
Welcoming Remarks by Yukon – 2015 Forum Overview  
9:00 – 9:45 Jurisdictional Greetings/Opening Remarks (Roundtable)  
9:45 – 10:00 Summary of Ft. McMurray Proceedings/Record of Decision  
10 :00 – 10 :15 Refreshment Break  
10 :15 – 10 :45 Presentation : Plan Nord : Deputy Minister Robert Sauvé, Société  
du Plan Nord, Québec  
10:45 – 11:15 Presentation: Energy and Mines Ministers Compendium of Good  
Practice: Min. Scott Kent  
11:15 – 11:35 Report on Benefit Agreement Project: Andrew Buchel, PhD, CE,  
Senior Research Manager at PRA Inc.  
11:35 – 12:00 p.m. Report on Innovating Development Project  
12:00 – 1:00 Lunch Buffet for Ministers and Senior Officials  
1:00 – 2:30 Panel: Managing Change (NL)  
2:30 – 2:45 Refreshment Break  
2:45 – 3:45 Guest Presentation – National Aboriginal Economic Development  
Board: Ms. Hilda Broomfield-Letemplier, Chair



- 3:45 – 4:30 Guest Presentation – Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce:  
Mr. Brian MacDonald
- 4:30 – 6:30 Reception hosted by Deputy Minister R. Sauvé for Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day (*The Woodcutter's Blanket*)
- 6:30 – 8:00 Ministers' Private Supper (*Giorgio's Cuccina*)
- 6:30 – 8:00 Senior Officials Supper (*The Miner's Daughter*)  
(NOTE: Senior Officials will meet to discuss communiqué before dinner (17:00) – 1 per jurisdiction – in Room A)

**Thursday, June 25, 2015**

- 7:00 – 8:00 Ministers' Private Breakfast (*Library, High Country Inn*)  
Breakfast Buffet for Officials (*Room B, High Country Inn*)
- 8:00 – 8:10 Reconvene Forum Proceedings (*Room A, High Country Inn*)
- 8:10 – 9:10 Presentation: NDMF TOR Review and Discussion of the Phased Approach
- 9:10 – 9:45 Discussion: 2016 Priorities  
Brief discussion of NDMF Outcomes and Trust Account
- 9:45 – 10:00 Refreshment Break
- 10:00 – 10:15 2016 Host Remarks
- 10:15 – 10:45 Approval of 2015 NDMF Communiqué and Pictures
- 10:45 – 11:20 Concluding Remarks by Jurisdictions
- 11:20 – 12:00 Adjournment & Media Scrum
- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Follow-up Senior Officials Meeting (*Room B, High Country Inn*)

**Appendix B:**

**List of Delegates for Northern Development Ministers Forum  
Whitehorse, Yukon June 24 – 25, 2015**

<b>Yukon</b>		
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title/Sector</b>
1.	Honourable Stacey Hassard	Minister of Economic Development
2.	Honourable Scott Kent	Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources
3.	Terry Hayden	Deputy Minister Department of Economic Development
4.	Barbara Dunlop	Assistant Deputy Minister Department of Economic Development
5.	Helen Booth	Senior Policy Advisor Department of Economic Development
6.	Jennifer Roach	Legislative Coordinator Department of Economic Development
7.	Juanita Power	Communications Advisor Department of Economic Development

<b>Northwest Territories</b>		
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title/Sector</b>
1.	Honourable David Ramsay	Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment
2.	Peter Vician	Deputy Minister Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment
3.	Kelly Kaylo	Assistant Deputy Minister Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment
4.	Kevin Todd	Director Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment
5.	Calum MacPherson	Senior Economist Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment
6.	Ryan Strain	Executive Assistant Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment

<b>Nunavut</b>		
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title/Sector</b>
1.	Honourable Monica Eil	Minister of Economic Development and Transportation Deputy Premier
2.	Pauloosie Suvega	Deputy Minister Department of Economic Development and Transportation
3.	Eric Dorion	Manager, Business Development Department of Economic Development and Transportation
4.	Christopher Scullion	Executive Assistant Department of Economic Development and Transportation

<b>British Columbia</b>		
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	Name	Title/Sector
1.	Okenge Yuma Morisho	Assistant Deputy Minister Jobs, Tourism, and Skills Training

Alberta		
	Name	Title/Sector
1.	Donavon Young	Deputy Minister Aboriginal Relations
2.	Clay Buchanan	Assistant Deputy Minister Ministry of Aboriginal Relations
3.	Janis Simpkins	Executive Director Northern Alberta Development Council
4.	Kim Pinnock	Acting Manager, Projects and Research Northern Alberta Development Council

Saskatchewan		
	Name	Title/Sector
1.	Victoria Jurgens	Legislative Secretary Ministry of Government Relations
2.	Al Hilton	Deputy Minister of Government Relations and Deputy Minister of First Nation, Metis, and Northern Affairs

Manitoba		
	Name	Title/Sector
1.	Robert Wavey	Deputy Minister Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
2.	Paul Doolan	Director Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
3.	Kerri Thomas	Senior Policy Analyst Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
4.	Donna Sitko	Policy Analyst Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
5.	David Chadwick	Special Advisor Department of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs

Ontario		
	Name	Title/Sector
1.	Christine Kaszycki	Assistant Deputy Minister Ministry of Northern Development and Mines
2.	Julia Hancock	Senior Policy Advisor Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

Québec		
	Name	Title/Sector
1.	Robert Sauvé	President and Chief Officer Société du Plan Nord
2.	Guillaume Demers	Political Advisor Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles

3.	Maryse Quimper	Executive Assistant Société du Plan Nord
4.	Catherine Girard-Lamoureux	Intergovernmental Relations Advisor Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes

<b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b>		
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title/Sector</b>
1.	Aubrey Gover	Deputy Minister Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office
2.	Michelle Watkins	Director Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs Office

<b>Government of Canada</b>		
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title/Sector</b>
1.	Dionne Saville	Regional Director General Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

<b>Speakers and Presenters for Whitehorse NDMF</b>		
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title/Sector</b>
1.	Andrew Buchel	PRA Inc.
2.	Hilda Broomfield-Letemplier	National Aboriginal Economic Development Board
3.	Steve Rose	Assistant Deputy Minister Operations, Department of Economic Development
4.	Tina Brobby	Director, Implementation and Reconciliation/Associate Chief Negotiator Executive Council Office
5.	Kelli Taylor	Director, First Nations Relations Executive Council Office
6.	Brian MacDonald	Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce
7.	Tom Hoefer	N.W.T. and Nunavut Chamber of Commerce
8.	Amanda Cliff	Accompanied Speaker National Aboriginal Economic Development Board Secretariat Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
9.	Elder Dianne Smith	Opening Prayer, Kwanlin Dün First Nation

## Appendix C:



## PRESS RELEASE

Yukon hosts ministers to discuss northern opportunities and challenges  
June 23, 2015

Yukon hosts ministers to discuss northern opportunities and challenges  
WHITEHORSE—Ministers and delegates representing Canada’s northern jurisdictions are in Yukon this week for the Northern Development Ministers' Forum.

“The forum is a significant venue for collaboration on common northern issues and hosting it is a special opportunity for Yukon,” Minister of Economic Development Stacey Hassard said.

The theme of this year’s forum is Build North: Infrastructure, Partnerships and Innovations. Over the next two days, about 50 delegates will take part in discussions about managing a changing North and the role Canada’s Aboriginal people play in driving development.

“As hosts, we are focused on building and creating new connections across jurisdictions,” Hassard added. “This is an opportunity to share regional expertise. Having both new and returning forum participants means we are able to access a wealth of experience to address northern challenges.”

Established in 2001, the Northern Development Ministers' Forum strives to advance the wide-ranging and common interests of northerners while raising awareness of the accomplishments, contributions and potential of the North. Yukon last hosted the forum in 2007.

Member jurisdictions include the governments of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Ontario, Québec, Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as the Government of Canada.

Learn more: [2015 Forum](#)

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