
Media Advisory

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Celebrating the International Polar Year

YELLOWKNIFE (March 05, 2009) – The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is hosting a celebration of the International Polar Year (IPY) on Monday, March 9 from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

Presentations from three Canadian researchers involved in IPY programs will highlight activities taking place in the Northwest Territories (NWT):

- **Socio-Economic Perspectives of Caribou Decline** by Brenda Parlee, University of Alberta, highlights the socio-economic perspectives of caribou population decline.
- **Circumpolar Flaw Lead System Study** by David Barber, University of Manitoba, is a discussion of how western science and traditional knowledge were brought together to track global warming and its affects on ecosystems and economics in the Arctic. More details are available at: <http://www.ipy-cfl.ca/>
- **Impacts of Oil and Gas on Arctic Peoples** by Alana Kronstal, University of Victoria, highlights how an international program used *human security* as a lens from which to consider the potential impacts of oil and gas activity on Arctic peoples. Particular attention is given to specific projects within the broader program that are examining mental health, governance, addictions and homelessness in the NWT. More details are available at: <http://www.ipygaps.org/>

Members of the Canadian IPY National Committee will be attending the event. The Committee is holding its final meeting in Yellowknife on March 9 and 10, 2009.

For the past two years, researchers from more than 60 countries have been active in the Arctic and Antarctic. The NWT has been host to 18 research projects. The official observing period for IPY runs from March, 1 2007 to March 1, 2009, however research and communications activities will continue for another year or two.

More information about IPY can be found at: www.ipy.org; www.ipycanada.ca; www.ipy.gc.ca

For more information, contact:

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