

NWT and Alberta Announce Plan to Protect Transboundary Water Resources

YELLOWKNIFE (21 March, 2007) – The Northwest Territories (NWT) and Alberta are moving ahead with the development of a Bilateral Water Management Agreement that will ensure the integrity of water flowing downstream from Alberta into the Mackenzie River Basin.

Alberta Environment Minister Rob Renner and Northwest Territories Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Michael McLeod met on March 20, 2007 and agreed to move ahead with development of an agreement.

“Water is vital to the long-term prosperity of every population,” said Alberta Environment Minister Rob Renner. “It is a resource that knows no boundaries, and we are committed to ensuring that Albertans and our downstream neighbours in the Northwest Territories have access to a healthy and sustainable water supply into the future.”

The agreement will help ensure the water management plans take an adaptive management approach, respect the jurisdiction of Governments, and ensure water is cooperatively managed for the benefit of the environment, economy and people.

“Wetlands and water flows throughout northern Alberta and the southern Northwest Territories are changing and affecting the fish, moose and other life in aquatic ecosystems,” said NWT Environment and Natural Resources Minister Michael McLeod. “As downstream users, NWT residents need to work cooperatively with Alberta for the protection and sustainable use of this precious resource.”

Alberta is working on a similar agreement with British Columbia.

The Northwest Territories signed a similar agreement with the Yukon in 2002.

For more information contact:

Judy McLinton
Public Affairs and Communications
Environment and Natural
Resources
Government of the Northwest
Territories
Tel: (867) 873-7379
judy_mclinton@gov.nt.ca

Lisa Grotkowski
Communications
Alberta Environment
Tel: (780) 427-6267
lisa.grotkowski@gov.ab.ca