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LANG TO SPEAK AT ABORIGINAL RESOURCE EXPO

WHITEHORSE – Energy, Mines and Resources Minister Archie Lang will give the opening address at the 2004 Resource Expo on Aboriginal Energy and Resource Development in Vancouver Nov. 9.

The focus of Lang’s presentation is *New Directions in Yukon Resource Development*. He will report on the work the Yukon government is doing to form unique partnerships with First Nations and neighbouring jurisdictions, and the new resource opportunities opening up as a result of strengthening these partnerships.

“The Yukon government is actively working with First Nations to make them full partners in the economic development of the territory and to promote resource development within First Nation traditional territories for the benefit of all Yukoners,” Lang said. “These relationships, based on mutual respect and cooperation, open the door to many opportunities, and without them, the Yukon would not be able to advance economically.”

New developments in the Yukon’s resource sector include activity in oil and gas exploration, pipeline development, mineral exploration and development, and forestry.

In the last month there have been a number of positive developments with the two northern pipeline projects. Imperial Oil recently filed for regulatory approval of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Project.

“This is a significant development that will benefit the Yukon through employment, contracts, and the potential access it provides for tapping into north Yukon’s natural gas resources,” Lang added.

Significant progress has also been made on the Alaska Highway Pipeline project. The U.S. Senate has passed legislation designed to jump start the construction of an Alaska Highway pipeline. The legislation includes an expedited approval process, tax incentives and loan guarantees worth \$18 billion.

The Resource Expo is an annual high-profile Aboriginal resource event, bringing together the resource development industry and Aboriginal players to network, share information, and exchange views on this rapidly changing sector.

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