

KASKA TRIBAL COUNCIL

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NEWS RELEASE

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KASKA NATION ENCOURAGED BY NEW YUKON GOVERNMENT

CALGARY -- The Kaska Nation leadership is encouraged by the innovative approach demonstrated by the new Yukon government with regard to economic development.

“This is the first time a Yukon government has made a proactive and meaningful effort to work with the Kaska Nation as full partners,” said Kaska Tribal Council Chief Hammond Dick. “They are promoting economic development in a way that respects the rights and interests of First Nations, with full involvement and participation in decision making. This cooperative approach has the potential to bring benefits to the Kaska and all Yukoners.”

The Yukon caucus invited the Kaska leadership to participate in a series of meetings with oil and gas officials this week in Calgary as part of an effort to create the foundation required for development in the Kaska traditional territory.

In addition, Yukon Premier Dennis Fentie has committed to working with the Kaska Nation over the next six months to resolve outstanding issues associated with development.

“We are optimistic that such efforts will enable all of us, industry, First Nations and public governments, to work together to create an environment for development and help our communities to see some economic benefits,” said Chief Hammond Dick.

The Kaska Nation includes five First Nations in the southeast Yukon and northern British Columbia. Their traditional territory covers about 25 per cent of the Yukon, adjacent areas of Northwest Territories and about 10 per cent of B.C. The Kaska land claims are part of the first comprehensive claim accepted by Canada under its 1973 policy.

-30-

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