



FOR RELEASE # 2006-01
June 8, 2006

NEW AGREEMENT WITH MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD KEY TO TRANSBOUNDARY DEVELOPMENT ALONG YUKON/N.W.T. BORDER

WHITEHORSE – A new Cooperation Agreement between the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board or MVEIRB) formalizes these Boards' shared commitment to protecting the people, cultures and environment of Yukon and the N.W.T.

“YESAB and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board realize that we must conduct our assessments in an efficient and timely manner,” says YESAB Chair Dale Eftoda. “Our Boards are also responsible for ensuring that development proponents understand how we conduct our transboundary assessments.”

YESAB and the Review Board signed the Cooperation Agreement last week during a signing ceremony in Whitehorse.

“Residents of the Mackenzie Valley and Yukon have been sharing, developing and managing common resources for centuries,” says Review Board Chairperson Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott. “This Cooperation Agreement is a natural evolution of that strong relationship.”

The Cooperation Agreement recognizes YESAB and the Review Board will exercise their respective powers cooperatively and collaboratively—and in a coordinated manner—when conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) of a project that affects the people and environment of Yukon and the N.W.T.

YESAB and the Review Board could use that coordinated approach during the EIA of projects such as oil and gas exploration on the Peel Plateau, gas-field development in southeastern Yukon, and mining and mineral exploration in the South Nahanni.

YESAB and the Review Board are independent assessment boards. The *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* established YESAB in 2005. This Act is a requirement of Chapter 12 of the Umbrella Final Agreement and Yukon First Nations' Final Agreements. The *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)* established the Review Board in 1998. The MVRMA is a requirement of the Gwich'in and Sahtu comprehensive land claim agreements.

For more information about YESAB, visit www.yesab.ca. For more information about the Review Board, visit www.mveirb.nt.ca.

Rob Yeomans
Communications Officer
YESAB
(867) 668-6420
rob.yeomans@yesab.ca

Dale Eftoda
Chair
YESAB
(867) 668-6420
dale.eftoda@yesab.ca

Alison Blackduck
Planning and Communications Advisor
MVEIRB
(867) 766-2584
ablackduck@mveirb.nt.ca

Gabrielle Mackenzie-Scott
Chairperson
MVEIRB
(867) 766-7050
gmackenzie-scott@mveirb.nt.ca