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For immediate release

## **TIA Yukon Applauds Yukoners' Support for Protection of Peel Watershed.**

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**Whitehorse, YT** – TIA Yukon says that the government cannot ignore the wishes of Yukoners to protect parts of the Peel River watershed.

The results from the July 2009 Datapath Systems poll clearly show that Yukoners are supportive of some form of protection of the Peel Watershed. The poll was commissioned by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society- Yukon Chapter, and the Yukon Conservation Society. TIA Yukon chose to partner in the poll by providing financial support.

“The future of the Peel watershed affects us all and we believe Yukoners are well aware that one of Canada’s most precious land assets is in danger,” says TIA Yukon Chair, Rod Taylor. “TIA's members believe that a strong mining industry is critical to the long term economic health of the Yukon. That is why we are advocating for a balanced approach, protecting only 40% of the Peel watershed around the three iconic rivers – the Snake, Wind and Bonnet Plume - and a sustainable land use plan. That represents only 6% of the Yukon land mass”

“The Government of Yukon has a mandate to represent the people of the Yukon and respect their input and wishes. The poll shows that Yukoners are following this issue and have clearly expressed their desire for some form of reasonable preservation of the Peel.”

While TIAY says that mining, development and tourism can be supportive of each other, it has drawn a line when it comes to the Three Rivers area of the Peel Watershed. TIAY has launched a campaign to raise awareness of the tourism industry’s concerns about the long term effects of continued mining and development in the area.

“The longer term health of the Three Rivers area is about more than just a short term economic gain. It is about preserving a national treasure and a long term economic asset. We feel strongly that this is a nationwide concern and we are asking all Canadians to come and bear witness to why this iconic land asset, the Three Rivers Area, must be protected for all Canadians to enjoy, “says Taylor.

For more information regarding the Peel Watershed Planning Commission, people may go to: <http://www.peel.planyukon.ca/>.

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