



#3-1109 First Ave. Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A-5G4  
Tel: 867-668-3331 Fax: 867-667-7379

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **TIA Yukon Calls For A Full Review of Peel Watershed Planning Process Based on Allegations Against the Premier.**

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**June 19, 2009 (Whitehorse, YK)** – TIA Yukon learned today of Premier Fentie's interference in the Peel Watershed planning process and are asking for a full review of the process and proposed plans.

"We are appalled by the blatant disregard for the integrity of the planning process and the apparent dishonesty of the premier," says TIA Yukon chair Rod Taylor. "Historically we believed we had an honest and credible relationship with the premier, however this calls into question the relationship this government has with the mining industry as well as it's integrity in dealing with the rest of the Yukon's future land planning initiatives."

Yukon News reported the interference based on internal documents they obtained. The article can be found at <http://www.yukon-news.com/news/13282/>

"This only adds credence to the fears that many had that the government had already made up its mind about what the results of the plan should be. One of Canada's last truly pristine wildernesses deserves better," says Taylor.

The Yukon News story quotes from internal emails and official government submissions that clearly implicate Premier Fentie and the Energy Mines and Resources Minister Brad Cathers. This despite statements by the Premier in the legislature and in the media that the government would never interfere in the Peel land use process.

"We have repeatedly contacted our Minister of Tourism and Environment about our concerns with the process," says Taylor. "She stated at our board meeting and in other meetings that she could not interfere or make any statement of position until the final report was submitted by the Commission. Unfortunately it would appear other Ministers and the Premier did not follow the same protocol."

The Peel Watershed is one of the last intact boreal forests of it's size in the world, Home to the Bonnet Plume, the Snake and the Wind rivers: it is one of the last remaining pristine watersheds of it's kind in North America. TIA Yukon supports its protection for future generations of Yukoners and all Canadians.

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**For more information, contact:**

Sandy Hachey, Executive Director, TIA Yukon  
Phone: 867-668-8021  
Fax: 867-667-7379

[sandy.hachey@northwestel.net](mailto:sandy.hachey@northwestel.net)  
[www.tiayukon.com](http://www.tiayukon.com)