

WHITEHORSE DECLARATION ON NORTHERN CLIMATE CHANGE ***Climate Change Summit releases crucial action plan***

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For immediate release

WHITEHORSE, YUKON – Delegates of the Circumpolar Climate Change Summit released the ***Whitehorse Declaration on Northern Climate Change*** today, outlining actions to be taken to address climate change and its impacts in the Circumpolar North.

“We want to deliver a very strong message that climate change is no longer an abstract idea in the North” says Aynslie Ogden, Project/Research Officer of the Northern Climate ExChange and Co-Chair of the Circumpolar Climate Change Summit. “Northern residents are witnessing disturbing and severe climatic and ecological changes as a result of global warming, and are demanding that stronger measures be taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

On the first day of the Summit, delegates provided a list of their top priorities for action. A compiled Background Document containing the list of the over 300 recommendations verbatim was reviewed by delegates, who worked together preparing a one-page Declaration signed on the final day of the Summit. The Declaration and Background Document may be viewed at www.taiga.net/nce/declaration.

“The Declaration calls for serious and immediate international action to slow the rapid rate of change in northern ecosystems and communities”, says Ms. Ogden. “Northern communities now face the challenge of adapting to climate change, there is a realization that steps must be taken to reduce vulnerability to new climatic and environmental conditions. Delegates commend greenhouse gas reduction actions taken to date, but recognize much more needs to be done.”

The Northern Climate ExChange hosted a 3-day Summit and Sustainable Technologies Exposition in Whitehorse, Yukon, March 19th to 21st. The Summit was held to present monitoring and research results, identify vulnerable northern ecosystems and industries, and develop strategy recommendations for responses to climate change.

More than simply a conference of scientists, the Summit brought together policy-makers, communities and industry from across the Circumpolar North to make recommendations about needed steps for the future. Approximately 100 presentations were made to the 275 attending delegates on the primary theme - *Uncertain Future, Deliberate Action*.

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Visit the Northern Climate Change Summit and Exposition web site at www.taiga.net/nce/circumpolar or contact Aynslie Ogden, Conference Co-Chair, at aogden@yukoncollege.yk.ca or (867) 668-8735.