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Torch Relay Stays the Course through Ivvavik National Park

Whitehorse, YT – For ten days and 130 kilometers, the 2007 Canada Winter Games torch will float down the Firth River through Ivvavik National Park. The Yukon torch, one of three currently traversing the territories, will be accompanied by Parks Canada officials and two Inuvialuit athletes on its journey through Ivvavik.

Ivvavik National Park has the distinction of being Canada's first National Park established as the result of a land claim. This Torch Challenge is just one of many events that have been ongoing since the launch of the Torch Relay in Ottawa on April 6, 2006.

"We are thrilled to have the Canada Winter Games Yukon torch spread the spirit and energy of the 2007 Games to the northernmost reaches of Yukon in Ivvavik National Park," said Pam Boyde, Torch Relay Committee Chair. "The spectacular Firth River slicing through the Arctic tundra, incising canyons and spilling out to the Beaufort Sea presents exciting and unique challenges. We are very pleased to be able to partner with Parks Canada to make this amazing event a reality."

August marks a busy month for the 2007 Canada Winter Games Torch Relay as all three torches are making several stops and are completing new and exciting challenges. The Department of National Defence is taking the torch on two separate challenges. Operation Beaufort, will be a naval operation culminating with a Torch Relay visit to Holman, NWT and Operation Lancaster, a naval journey traveling the Eastern coast of Baffin Island, NU making community stops in Pond Inlet, Clyde River and Qiqiqitarjuack.

All three torches will reunite in Whitehorse next February and together will light the Canada Games torch and cauldron. The torches will bring with them enthusiasm and excitement from across the North to help all Games participants celebrate this great event, hosted for the first time north of 60.