



## MEDIA ADVISORY

### Selkirk First Nation Culture and Heritage on Display at the YQ300

**February 8, 2011 (Whitehorse, Yukon & Fairbanks, Alaska)** – Cpl. Jason Waldner, stationed at the Pelly Crossing RCMP Detachment, kept alive the tradition of managing the Pelly Crossing checkpoint. The RCMP managed a smooth operation, with officers from around the territory volunteering their time. But 2011 marks the first year the Selkirk First Nation and its Development Corporation have come on as the Official Yukon Quest 300 sponsor in Pelly Crossing.

David Silas, a Director on the Selkirk First Nation Development Corp says, “The First Nation and the Development Corp decided to come together and see what we could do to not only build up our community and have it on display but to see what we can do in regards to supporting the Quest and make sure it is a success. If it’s a success, it will benefit the community of Pelly Crossing.” Their goal is to have Selkirk First Nation culture and heritage on display for this international venue.

They are hosting the Yukon Quest 300 awards banquet and have donated a perennial plaque for the YQ300 that will be displayed at the Yukon Quest office in Whitehorse. They hired Patti and Margaret Isaac and their mother to operate the food concession and have donated every meal consumed by the mushers and volunteers while the checkpoint was open (the food is delicious!).

The Selkirk First Nation and its Development Corp are donating a Vet’s Choice Award and prizes for the top three finishers to go along with the prize money generated through the race.

Here is the prize structure for the Yukon Quest300. Half of entry fee is divided up. 50% goes to first place, 30% to second place and 20% to the third place finisher. In 2011 the Yukon Quest 300 had 23 entries. The break out of prize money is:

1st Place	\$1725.00	Jerry Willomitzer
2nd Place	\$1035.00	Ed Hopkins
3rd Place	\$690.00	Mathias Bech

Juno Award winner Jerry Alfred will provide entertainment at the banquet. Elder Lizzie Hall will do the blessing of the food and present the awards to the mushers.

David Silas says, “This is our first year taking an active role. We’re excited to be a part of the Yukon Quest and we’re looking forward to being involved for many years to come.” Many locals, including Chief Darren Isaac, have wandered down to the checkpoint to watch the teams come in. The excitement goes both ways. All Yukon Questies – from the 1,000 mile mushers to the 300-mile mushers, their handlers, the volunteers, officials, managers have expressed their appreciation for the warm welcome at Pelly Crossing.

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