

## **NWT Furs in High Demand at Seattle Auction**

YELLOWKNIFE (March 8, 2010): Over \$550,000 worth of Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs were sold at a wild fur sale hosted by Fur Harvester's Auction Inc. in Seattle, Washington on February 19, 2010.

NWT marten, lynx and muskrat pelts were in great demand - 96 percent of the available pelts for these species were sold at the auction. The average prices for marten, lynx and muskrat furs were also up compared to 2009 prices at the Seattle sale. Much of the interest in the furs came from buyers in China and Russia.

"These encouraging results demonstrate how much the fur industry values our Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs," says the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Bob McLeod. "The results also indicate the market for wild furs continues to recover. This is good news for our trapping sector, and for the strength and diversity of the NWT economy overall."

In total, an estimated \$656,000 worth of Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs have been sold at two wild fur sales in 2010. The next auction where Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs will be sold is June 2, 2010 in North Bay, Ontario.

Through the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Furs Program, the Government of the Northwest Territories works in partnership with NWT harvesters and the fur industry to support and promote the NWT's traditional fur economy.

The GNWT's development and support of sustainable and diversified local economies is working to provide communities and regions with opportunities and choices as identified in the 16th Assembly's vision of Northerners Working Together.

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