



**For immediate release**

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### **Passing of Barry Bellchambers**

WHITEHORSE – The Tourism Industry Association of Yukon is saddened to hear that Barry Bellchambers, Yukon tourism industry leader and former TIA Yukon Vice President, has passed away. The following statement is from former TIA Yukon Executive Director Claire Festel:

“Barry was a visionary who not only dreamed but also brought his dreams to life. He could envision a comfortable, welcoming hotel in the old YWCA building and a conference facility in the old swimming pool. He backed Atlantis submarines right from the start – when it was a crazy idea – he and Maggie helped build that business into an international success.

He supported people who took risks. When he was stymied in realizing a dream, he turned to another and made it happen. He never gave up. An employee of his, when she died, left him a letter thanking him for taking a chance on her and telling him he was the best boss she'd ever had.

He and Maggie were life partners and partners in business through many ups and downs. He respected her business capabilities so much that he went to Hawaii to plead with her to come back to the Yukon to help him run the High Country Inn. He knew he needed her steady hand. Together they were an incredibly effective and competitive team in the many ventures they took on over the years, from real estate to tourism.

When Maggie was fighting stage 4 colon cancer, he sold the hotel and was there for her completely. Her miraculous recovery had much to do with her love for Barry and his support.

I don't know how many roles of leadership Barry actually filled – his accomplishments have more to do with his vision, his ability to turn dreams into reality, his way of seeing the potential in ideas and people and backing them with his own money, his own time and his great big heart.”

On behalf of the industry, TIA Yukon extends its thoughts and condolences to his partner, Maggie, and family members.

- 30 -

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