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TICKET FINES AND DEMERIT POINTS INCREASE TO ADDRESS ROAD SAFETY

WHITEHORSE – As part of a national effort to combat dangerous driving and encourage road safety, the Yukon government is raising ticket fines and demerit points for violations of motor vehicle laws. Particular attention is placed on high risk driving practices causing harm and loss to others. The new fines and demerit points take effect July 15, 2002.

“These increases will encourage safe driving, deter dangerous driving and ultimately help to reduce the risk of collisions on Yukon roadways,” Infrastructure Minister Scott Kent said. “Reasonable changes like these will also help the Yukon move toward Canada's national Road Safety Vision to have the world's safest highways by 2010.”

The Yukon’s regulations governing motor vehicle ticket fines and demerit points have not changed since the early 1980s and are among the lowest fines in Canada. The new levels place the Yukon in the mid range of ticket fines, compared to other Canadian jurisdictions.

Three government departments - Infrastructure, Community Services and Justice - in close cooperation with the RCMP, recommended the changes. The government will undertake a review of these fines and demerit point increases after five years.

“We need to increase fines and demerit points enough to be an effective deterrent to high risk driving,” Community Services Minister Pamela Buckway said. “We know that vehicle collisions are among the leading preventable causes of injury and death in this country. Strong action is necessary to increase road safety.”

Some examples of the changes are that motorists not wearing their seatbelts or not using child safety restraint seats may receive a \$75 ticket and four demerit points. Motorists that run stop signs or red traffic lights may receive a \$125 ticket and four demerit points. With 15 demerit points, a motorist’s licence will be suspended for at least one month.

Payment options are available for people who can’t pay within the allotted time period.

“The RCMP strongly support these changes,” said Chief Superintendent Darrell Madill, the Yukon RCMP’s Commanding Officer. “Improving public safety on our roadways is a key priority for us.”

For more information about these ticket fine and demerit point increases please call the Whitehorse Motor Vehicles Office at 667-3638 or 667-5313 or toll free within the Yukon at 1-800-661-0408 local 3638 or local 5313. Public information packages may be picked up at the Whitehorse Motor Vehicles Office, first floor of the Lynn Building, 308 Steele Street.

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Contact:

Bernie Adilman
Communications Advisor
Cabinet Office
(867) 667-8905

Laurie Sthamann
Communications
Yukon Infrastructure
(867) 393-7193

Cpl. Ross Milward
"M" Division Traffic Services
RCMP
(867) 667-5585

Bernie.adilman@gov.yk.ca laurie.sthamann@gov.yk.ca ross.milward@rcmp-grc.gc.ca