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STRATEGIC PLAN RELEASED TO CREATE BEST CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM IN CANADA

WHITEHORSE – The Department of Justice and Yukon First Nations are working together to create the best correctional system in Canada.

Justice Minister Marian C. Horne and Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Andy Carvill have released the Correctional Redevelopment Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan responds to the recommendations of the Corrections Action Plan.

The Strategic Plan provides a framework for working collaboratively with First Nations to achieve two goals. The first goal is to substantially improve the quality of correctional programming offered to victims, offenders and communities. The second goal is to fundamentally change the operation of the correctional system so that the Department of Justice, First Nations and other service providers are better able to deliver effective correctional services.

“With the release of this Strategic Plan we now have the road map to become the best correctional system in Canada,” Horne said. “Our goal is to deliver high quality client-focused programs, reduce repeat offenses and increase the safety and security of Yukoners.”

The success of the Strategic Plan is dependent on a close working relationship between the Yukon government and Yukon First Nations.

“I am pleased that we have a partnership with the Council of Yukon First Nations and that we are working toward formalizing a partnership with Kwanlin Dün First Nation. This is essential in redeveloping community corrections and planning a new correctional centre,” Horne added.

“The Yukon First Nations I represent look forward to playing a major role in fundamentally reforming a territorial correctional system that has been in need of reform for a very long time,” Carvill said.

“We now have the perfect opportunity here, thanks to the direct involvement of First Nations in every aspect of developing and implementing the Yukon’s visionary corrections strategy, to make significant structural changes. These changes will better reflect the needs of our people while improving the safety and security of all Yukoners,” Carvill said.

“This process, once it is completed, will substantially improve the quality of correctional programs and services delivered to everyone. And that includes not just the offender, but also the victim, the worker, the volunteer and the community member. The end result will be a correctional system that works because it is inclusive and comprehensive and rehabilitative, and so it will help us all move forward together,” Carvill said.

The plan will continue to be guided by the recommendations of the Consultation on Corrections that challenged the Yukon government and First Nations to move forward together.

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