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CONSULTATIONS TO BEGIN ON NEW CORRECTIONS ACT

WHITEHORSE – The Yukon government will begin community consultations on a new *Corrections Act* this November.

This consultation stems from an action item arising out of the Correctional Redevelopment Strategic Plan, released last February. This plan was created after the Consultation on Corrections held in 2005.

Justice Minister Marian C. Horne welcomes this consultation process. “This Act has not been amended since the early 1970s. We need a new act to reflect the reality of today’s offenders within a modern legal framework. We will continue to consult with Yukoners on the best way to build a corrections system, while creating safer communities for everyone,” Horne said.

Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Andy Carvill urges First Nation citizens to take part in the consultations to draft a new act.

“Since the consultation process is being jointly developed by Yukon First Nations and the Yukon government, I am confident it will be inclusive and comprehensive,” Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Andy Carvill said. “But I strongly urge all Yukon First Nations citizens who want to see a criminal justice system that better reflects their needs, and the needs of their communities, to participate in this process.”

A legislation advisory committee that includes representation from the Yukon government and First Nations, will oversee the consultations. The committee will provide advice to a working group carrying out the consultations. The new *Corrections Act* will provide a strong legislative foundation for corrections for years to come.

The act will be drafted with input from First Nations, non-government organizations, and community stakeholders. The drafting of the act will also include a legal review of the impact of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and developments in the field of corrections.

The Yukon government will also begin work on a comprehensive policy framework for victims of crime, which may include legislation.

“Protecting the rights of victims of crime goes hand-in-hand with helping offenders heal,” Horne said.

Further details on the victims’ initiative will be released in the coming months.

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