

FOR RELEASE #06-241

December 11, 2006

**RCMP STREET CRIME REDUCTION TEAM WILL BE ESTABLISHED**

WHITEHORSE – Minister of Justice Marian C. Horne today announced funding to establish a RCMP Street Crime Reduction Team.

"Working in partnership with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Yukon government is providing the necessary assistance to develop and establish an enforcement unit that will reduce criminal activity on our streets," Horne said.

The RCMP Street Crime Reduction Team will exclusively focus on street-level crime. This eight-person team will consist of six police officers dedicated to enforcement aspects of the new initiative and two civilian personnel responsible for intelligence analysis and communications.

"Our government's priority is to respond to Yukoners' concerns about substance abuse, its causes and effects," Horne said. "As another initiative of our Substance Abuse Action Plan, the Street Crime Reduction Team will provide a major new enforcement and prevention tool to directly address Yukoners' concerns for their safety and well-being."

"The Street Crime Reduction Team is a proactive complement to the traditional policing approach," RCMP Commanding Officer Chief Superintendent Dave Shewchuk said. "The team will deliberately focus on crime hotspots and prolific drug and alcohol offenders. This will be an addition to our continued enforcement efforts aimed at disrupting and dismantling the illicit drug trade at all levels."

Through focused intelligence gathering, analysis and enforcement measures, the Street Crime Reduction Team will support initiatives aimed at making Yukon's streets and neighbourhoods safer and healthier.

The Government of Yukon will provide approximately \$485,000 per year, for each of the next three years, to fund this new initiative.

Planning is underway and implementation of the RCMP Street Crime Reduction Team is anticipated to begin in April 2007.

- 30 -

Contacts:

Albert Petersen  
Cabinet Communications  
Government of Yukon  
867-633-7961  
[albert.petersen@gov.yk.ca](mailto:albert.petersen@gov.yk.ca)

Barbara McLeod  
Communications, Justice  
Government of Yukon  
867-393-7081  
[barbara.mcleod@gov.yk.ca](mailto:barbara.mcleod@gov.yk.ca)

Brigitte Parker  
Communications  
RCMP - "M" Division  
867-667-5599