

FOR RELEASE #05-252
October 5, 2005

GOVERNMENT RELEASES DRAFT SUBSTANCE ABUSE ACTION PLAN

WHITEHORSE – Premier Dennis Fentie has released today the government’s action plan to address substance abuse problems in the Yukon.

The *Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan: Discussion Draft* outlines 30 programs and services designed to reduce the harms associated with alcohol and other drug abuse in Yukon communities. The programs and services are shaped by four strategic directions: harm reduction, prevention and education, treatment, and enforcement. Some of the programs and services are new, while others expand on existing programs and services currently offered by the government.

“The Yukon government is taking concrete action on reducing the harm from substance abuse now,” Fentie said. “We recognize the very serious problems caused by alcohol and drug abuse.”

The action plan is the follow-up to the Yukon Substance Abuse Summit held last June. Almost 200 delegates representing communities, First Nations and front line workers discussed solutions to the alcohol and drug problems in their communities.

“This action plan will provide more opportunities for helping Yukoners and their families who are struggling with substance abuse,” Justice and Education Minister John Edzerza said. “There are more options for treatment and harm reduction services, more tools for prevention and education, and more activities for strengthening enforcement.”

New initiatives will be rolled out over a three to five year period. Some of the programs and services are already being implemented.

“The action plan takes a collaborative, coordinated approach to the problem of substance abuse in the territory,” Health and Social Services Minister Peter Jenkins said. “By working together with other agencies, we can improve the overall health of all Yukoners.”

The *Substance Abuse Action Plan: Discussion Draft* will undergo a targeted review by individuals and organizations who are affected by and working in the field of substance abuse.

Copies of the *Substance Abuse Action Plan: Discussion Draft* can be obtained at the Government of Yukon main administration building at the inquiry desk, at the departments of Health and Social Services, Education, Justice, Executive Council Office, the Women’s Directorate and the Yukon Liquor Corporation. Copies are also available through the Yukon substance abuse website at: www.substanceabuse.gov.yk.ca or e-mail your request to substanceabuse@gov.yk.ca.

Comments on the action plan can be sent electronically to substanceabuse@gov.yk.ca or mailed to: Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan, P.O. Box 2703 (J-10), Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

-30-

Contact:
Peter Carr
Cabinet Communications
(867) 667-8688
Peter.Carr@gov.yk.ca

Deb Wald
A/Communications, Justice
(867) 393-7081
Deb.Wald@gov.yk.ca