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CORRECTIONS CONSULTATION INTERIM REPORT RELEASED AND CORRECTIONS SUMMIT OPENS

WHITEHORSE – Discussions on Correctional Reform are underway this week in Whitehorse. Representatives from communities, non-government organizations and governments are attending the Corrections Summit for presentations, discussions and release of the Corrections Consultation Interim Report, “Your Views... Your Voice”.

“I have been looking forward to this Summit and the release of the Interim Report from the time we announced our intention to co-chair a comprehensive public consultation on corrections with the Council of Yukon First Nations,” Justice Minister John Edzerza said.

At the Summit, the representatives will provide their views on the major issues raised during the public consultation phase of the Corrections Consultation. Their views will assist the Corrections Consultation project team in creating a draft Corrections Action Plan.

“The Corrections Summit is the wrap-up of an in-depth public consultation on corrections in the Yukon,” Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) Grand Chief Andy Carvill said.

“The Council of Yukon First Nations would like to see the results of this Summit and the public consultation process develop into a corrections system that will allow the governments, communities and individuals to have a hands-on approach to dealing with some of the justice issues that we are faced with today,” Carvill added.

“Grand Chief Andy Carvill and myself were joined in overseeing this consultation by Councillor Darryl Stewart of Liard First Nation and Lloyd Caesar, representing the Ross River Dena Council,” Edzerza said. “We asked Yukoners to share their experiences and suggestions for improving the correctional system. Their participation has been encouraging and will guide us in moving forward on correctional reform.”

The public consultation began in April and concluded in November. During that time the project team visited communities and met with the public, non-government organizations, frontline staff in the Yukon and First Nations governments, chiefs, mayors and councilors, and the staff and inmates at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

The Summit includes presentations on the consultation, breakout sessions, and presentations by the Kaska Men’s Brotherhood; Roy Louis and Simone Arnold from Pé Sâkâstêw; a healing lodge in Hobbema, Alberta; and DeRic Starlight, a First Nations professional puppeteer from Alberta.

The Summit is being held at the Yukon Inn. Early registration starts today, Nov. 30 at 5 p.m. at the Yukon Inn. The Summit opens Dec. 1 at 7:30 a.m. for late registration; and officially begins at 9 a.m. with the opening prayer and remarks.

The Summit continues on Dec. 2, beginning at 9 a.m. and concludes at 4:30 p.m. with the closing circle.

The final phase of the consultation will begin in Dec., with the development of the final report and a draft Corrections Action Plan, to be reviewed by the chiefs and minister of Justice at the Minister and Chiefs Round Table on Corrections in March 2006.

Information about the consultation and the Corrections Summit is available on the website at www.correctionsconsultation.yk.ca or by calling the consultation office at (867) 667-3206, or toll free at 1-800-661-0408, extension 3206.

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