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YUKON EMBARKS ON SAFER COMMUNITIES LEGISLATION CONSULTATION

WHITEHORSE – The Government of Yukon will immediately begin a public consultation as a first step in developing a safer communities and neighbourhoods legislation.

Safer communities and neighbourhoods legislation will help to promote safer, healthier Yukon communities. The legislation will target and, if necessary, shut down residential and commercial buildings that are used for illegal activities such as producing, selling, or using illegal drugs or the unlawful sale and consumption of alcohol.

“Enforcement is one of the Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan’s four strategic directions,” Justice Minister John Edzerza said. “Safer communities and neighbourhoods legislation will provide us with another tool to assist our law enforcement officers in dealing with illegal activities that negatively affect Yukon communities.”

“It will also empower residents to take back their neighbourhoods by confidentially reporting problem residences and businesses,” Edzerza added.

Following a motion passed by unanimous consent in the Legislative Assembly on Nov. 14, 2005, the safer communities and neighbourhoods legislation will be ready for the 2006 spring legislative session.

The Yukon government is seeking input from Yukoners so that the new legislation will reflect their needs and priorities.

An information pamphlet has been mailed to all Yukon residents and a public meeting will be held in Whitehorse, Jan.16 at 7 p.m. at the High Country Inn.

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