



## Government of Yukon

Government of Yukon » March 2010 » News Release #10-050

### Newsroom

Latest news releases

### News by theme

News by department

- Community Services
- Economic Development
- Education
- Energy, Mines and Resources
- Environment
- Executive Council Office
- Finance
- French Language Services Directorate
- Health and Social Services
- Highways and Public Works
- Justice
- Public Service Commission
- Tourism and Culture
- Women's Directorate

News by corporations

- Yukon Development Corporation
- Yukon Energy Corporation
- Yukon Housing Corporation
- Yukon Liquor Corporation
- Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board

Joint news releases

Premier's News

### News by date

2017 news releases

- January
- February
- March
- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October
- November
- December

News archive



**NEWS** *release*

FOR RELEASE #10-050  
March 29, 2010

### Civil forfeiture legislation to take profits out of crime

WHITEHORSE – Justice Minister Marian C. Horne tabled a bill today that would improve government's ability to fight unlawful activity through civil legislation.

"The civil forfeiture act will improve our ability to remove the incentive for unlawful activity within Yukon by providing government with the authority to seize the instruments and proceeds related to the activity," Horne said.

The proposed bill will allow a Justice department Crown counsel to ask the civil court for an order to freeze and take possession of property that is determined to be a proceed or instrument of unlawful activity. A criminal charge does not have to be in place.

A proceed is defined as property including cash, real estate or cars acquired as a result of unlawful activity. An instrument is property that is likely to be used to engage in unlawful activity in the future such as a house used in a marijuana grow operation.

"This is another tool to stop unlawful activity from occurring in Yukon," Horne said. "We are doing what we can to build safer and healthier communities."

Civil forfeiture legislation is in place in eight Canadian jurisdictions including British Columbia and Ontario.

The Supreme Court of Canada upheld Ontario's *Civil Remedies Act* in 2009 after a court challenge.

-30-

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