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FOR RELEASE #10-129 July 7, 2010

Yukoners contribute to police force review

Whitehorse – The Review of Yukon's Police Force committee continues to gather valuable comments from Yukoners that will help change the way Yukon is policed.

Review committee members are working with the City of Whitehorse to hold a public session on Wednesday, July 21 at the Gold Rush Inn Town Hall starting at 7 p.m. to provide updates and hear citizens' views.

"The more people we hear from, the more representative the review will be in terms of providing the police service Yukoners want," review co-chair and Yukon Justice deputy minister Dennis Cooley said. "We have had good dialogue with the people who have come forward to express their views. They've been honest and forthright with us."

"Like all organizations, the RCMP needs to continue to monitor the way it does business so that it reflects the needs of the people it serves. I urge all Yukoners to take part," co-chair and RCMP M Division Commanding Officer Peter Clark said.

Co-chair and Council of Yukon First Nations manager of Justice Programs Simone Arnold, who has been working closely with First Nations citizens to hear their views, said the comments she has heard to date reflect the mixed historic relations between the RCMP and Yukon First Nations.

"People are coming forward with stories to share and the stories are heartfelt," Arnold said. "This review can only help to improve the relations between the RCMP and Yukon First Nations to make a better tomorrow. We want to hear everyone's story and suggestions for change, and then we can start a new beginning."

For more information and to submit comments to the Review of Yukon's Police Force go to www.policereview2010.gov.yk.ca.

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