



FOR RELEASE
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Courtworkers to receive training in circle sentencing and dispute resolution

WHITEHORSE—Community Justice workers, Aboriginal courtworkers and other community partners will be in Whitehorse for four days of training on circle processes, Indigenous dispute resolution practices and dispute systems designed for Aboriginal communities.

"Community justice processes are an important part of the justice landscape in Yukon," Minister of Justice Brad Cathers said. "By focusing on repairing and healing the harm caused by crime, we can promote community accountability and respond to the needs of victims, offenders, families and their communities."

The Yukon Department of Justice was able to secure federal funding through Justice Canada's Aboriginal Justice Strategy and has partnered with the Yukon chapter of the National Joint Committee of Senior Criminal Justice Officials and the Northern Institute of Social Justice to proceed with the innovative training event.

Two days of training will be led by trainers from the International Institute of Restorative Practice Canada, while University of Alaska-Fairbanks instructors will lead two days of training focused on restorative practices and dispute system design.

"This training event will build capacity in communities to offer alternative measures to dealing with crime or disputes through the formal justice system," Cathers added. "It is important that we support the delivery of restorative justice initiatives by providing opportunities for training, information sharing and policy development."

The Department of Justice will seek the feedback of participants to help gauge future interest in workshops and training opportunities, with the long term goal being the development of a collaborative Restorative Justice training program.

The announcement of this pilot training opportunity comes during Restorative Justice Week, observed this year from November 15 to 22.

The Government of Yukon continues to support nine Community Justice projects through funding from the federal Aboriginal Justice Strategy.

Learn more:
Yukon Community Justice

-30-

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