



FOR RELEASE
March 20, 2015

Input wanted on proposed regulations for oil-fired appliances and carbon monoxide safety

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon wants to hear from Yukoners on proposed safety regulations designed to improve oil-fired heating systems and safeguard Yukoners from carbon monoxide and fire.

"These proposed regulations will go a long way to help safeguard everyone from the risks of carbon monoxide poisoning and fire in their homes," Minister of Community Services Currie Dixon said. "We now want to hear from Yukoners and gather their input."

The proposed regulations would require smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors in all residences – including rental units – with a fuel-burning appliance or an attached garage.

The proposed regulations would also put greater government oversight in place for the installation or modification of oil-fired appliances, but will not affect regular oil burner servicing. Only qualified oil burner mechanics and supervised apprentices would be allowed to install or modify oil-fired appliances. A registry of qualified oil burner mechanics would also be developed.

Many Yukoners have already taken action to improve their safety by installing carbon monoxide detectors and smoke alarms and annually servicing their home heating systems.

Over the last few years, territorial training and certification programs have helped a number of Yukoners become fully qualified as oil burner mechanics. The Yukon government has also helped raise public awareness through its seriouslysimple and Be A Hero campaigns.

Public review of these proposed regulations is one of the last stages in the legislative process.

Learn more:

Visit the proposed regulations public consultation web page

-30-

See backgrounder below.

Contact:

Elaine Schiman
Cabinet Communications
867-633-7961
elaine.schiman@gov.yk.ca

Mac Hislop
Communications, Community Services
867-393-7461
mac.hislop@gov.yk.ca

Background

- Following the tragic deaths of five Yukoners from carbon monoxide poisoning in January 2012, the Oil-Fired Appliance Working Group was established to make recommendations on improvements to oil burner safety. A coroner's inquest was held to further understand the events leading to the tragedy and offer recommendations on how to improve public safety. The Yukon government's proposed legislative changes address various recommendations.
- In spring 2013 the Oil-Fired Appliance Safety Statutory Amendment Act was passed by the Yukon legislature. These proposed regulations stem from that act and, following this consultation, constitute the second and final step to making positive improvements to Yukon's laws and better-protecting Yukoners.
- With these proposed regulations, Yukon will be among the first jurisdictions in Canada to require smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in all residences that have a fuel-burning appliance or attached garage, both of which are potential sources of carbon monoxide in homes.

News Release #15-095



Stay up to date with the latest Yukon government news by subscribing to our RSS feed here: <http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/rss.html>. Or follow us on Twitter @yukongov.