



FOR RELEASE

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## **Department holds week-long Project Lynx training for service providers**

WHITEHORSE—Youth and child service providers will gather in Whitehorse to participate in Project Lynx training June 2 through June 6, coordinated by the Victim Services Branch.

"Children who have experienced or witnessed violence benefit from coordinated supports so they are not further traumatized by their experience of the justice system," Minister of Justice Mike Nixon said. "This week will highlight the collaborative efforts of the Project Lynx interagency team and enhance responses offered to young Yukoners."

Pamela Hurley, a specialist and educator on issues related to children in the justice system, will be the featured speaker. She will also facilitate education sessions for agencies involved with child victims and witnesses. Hurley has co-authored manuals and resource materials for justice system professionals and participated in the development of guidelines for child victims and witnesses of crime.

"Project Lynx aims to adapt and implement national best practices for child advocacy centres within Yukon," Project Lynx coordinator Lindsay Roberts said. "We are working closely together to coordinate services, such as developing child-friendly spaces for interviews as well as culture and child-appropriate supports for testimony."

The Department of Justice Canada provided funding through the Policy Centre for Victim Issues to Project Lynx in 2011, specifically to coordinate and enhance responses from systems that support children who are victims or witnesses of crime. This Child Advocacy Centre model guides children and youth who are victims or witnesses of crime during their journey through the justice system.

Along with Yukon government programs and services, the RCMP and First Nation health and justice programs are taking part in the training.

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