



Government of Yukon

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NEWSrelease

FOR RELEASE #11-049

April 14, 2011

Victims of Crime Act proclaimed

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon proclaimed its new victims of crime legislation on April 8, followed by an event today at the Law Centre with Justice Minister Marian C. Horne. The event also recognizes Victims of Crime Awareness Week.

The *Victims of Crime Act* was assented to in the Yukon Legislative Assembly and the regulations were established in March 2010.

"Proclaiming the *Victims of Crime Act* is an important step towards implementing the government's Victims of Crime Strategy," Horne said. "This legislation is critical to ensuring that victims are treated with courtesy, compassion and respect."

The new act contains a victims' bill of rights which affirms a victim's right to information and consideration during the justice process. The act also establishes the duties of the victim services director to provide services to victims of crime.

The Victims of Crime Strategy, to be implemented over five years with a budget of \$1.5 million, was released in August, 2009 after consultation with stakeholders and the public. Creating new legislation was one of the options presented in the strategy.

The strategy also lays out the framework for improving services to victims in the communities and increasing government partnerships with First Nations and non-government organizations. For more information on the Victims of Crime Strategy visit www.justice.gov.yk.ca.

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