



FOR RELEASE

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## **New Community Safety Committee continues Sharing Common Ground partnerships**

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon and key community partners have created a Community Safety Committee. It brings together a group of government and non-governmental organizations and agencies to improve communication and integrated responses to policing and community safety issues.

"The Community Safety Committee's mandate is to maintain and expand the relationships created by the Sharing Common Ground initiative, which resulted from the 2010 Review of Yukon's Police Force," Minister of Justice Brad Cathers said.

The committee will work together to address complex issues that require broad, community-driven responses.

"Community partnerships are the cornerstone of developing effective responses to social justice issues," Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate Elaine Taylor said. "This committee will engage a broad spectrum of service providers who are working at the operational level on policing and public safety."

Kwanlin Dün Chief Doris Bill said: "The safety of the citizens of Kwanlin Dün is a priority for leadership and the First Nation government. We know that working closely with many community groups will improve and strengthen Kwanlin Dün's many initiatives. This committee formalizes coordinated communication between many Yukon community safety organizations."

Committee meetings will be held three times per year. The committee will be co-chaired by the Department of Justice's Public Safety and Investigations director and a member of a partner organization, which will rotate every 18 months. The first co-chair role will be held by the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) Justice manager.

CYFN Grand Chief Ruth Massie said: "The Council of Yukon First Nations is pleased to be working with the Department of Justice on addressing community safety priorities and issues. Through collaboration, partnerships and a customized approach I see great potential on moving forward with positive change in response to key community safety issues."

Commanding Officer of the RCMP in Yukon, Chief Superintendent Peter Clark said: "Community safety is a collective responsibility that relies on the involvement and contribution of many. This committee, with so many different government and community partners coming together to make their contribution, represents an important step forward in building safer, stronger communities."

The core committee members are the departments of Justice, Community Services, Health and Social Services and the Women's Directorate, along with the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Council of Yukon First Nations, Association of Yukon Communities, Yukon RCMP and Yukon Women's Coalition.

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