



FOR RELEASE  
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## **Access to justice for individuals with FASD a top priority at ministers' meeting**

WHITEHORSE—Federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for justice and public safety held a two-day meeting in Whitehorse last week that addressed issues currently facing Canadians.

"The meeting was a key forum to discuss, learn and build consensus on how ministers will collaboratively address justice issues in jurisdictions across Canada," Minister of Justice and Yukon Attorney General Mike Nixon said. "Hosting this year's meeting in Yukon provided the opportunity to talk about the unique issues facing the North and also showcase the unparalleled hospitality of our community."

Legal aid funding, victims' rights, violence against Aboriginal women and access to justice for individuals with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder were priority action areas identified by the ministers.

The ministers received a presentation by Judge Karen Ruddy of the Territorial Court on the Community Wellness Court. The ministers also commended Yukon for leading progressive and innovative programs to address justice issues faced by individuals experiencing fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD).

"Access to justice for individuals with FASD and establishing shared best practices is a priority," Nixon added. "Yukon will continue to play a national leadership role in responding to the needs of those affected with FASD in the criminal justice system."

The meeting held at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre was co-chaired by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada Peter MacKay, P.C., Q.C., the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Steven Blaney, P.C., and Minister Nixon.

### **Learn more:**

Federal-Provincial-Territorial Meeting of Ministers responsible for Justice and Public Safety news release: [www.scics.gc.ca/english/conferences.asp?a=viewdocument&id=2105](http://www.scics.gc.ca/english/conferences.asp?a=viewdocument&id=2105)

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