



Government of Yukon

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FOR RELEASE #09-226
September 25, 2009

Government to Consult on New Victims of Crime Act

WHITEHORSE – As part of its Victims of Crime Strategy, the Yukon government will consult on a new victims of crime act this fall, Justice Minister Marian C. Horne announced today.

"We heard during the corrections consultation that victims deserve a voice in the justice process," Horne said. "It is important that this act reflects the needs of Yukoners who are victimized by crime."

The Yukon government has written a draft act after initial meetings with a legislative advisory committee that involved the RCMP, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, First Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations.

"It is important that a legislative advisory committee is in place to help draft legislation and oversee this consultation," Horne added. "This way, the new victims of crime act will be a strong piece of legislation that responds to the needs of Yukoners."

The draft act contains a victims' bill of rights and principles that provide for services and information to victims during the justice process. The draft act also establishes the duties of the director of Victim Services and the responsibilities of government branches that offer services to victims of crime.

A draft version of the act is available for review on the Department of Justice website at www.justice.gov.yk.ca under *What's New*.

The Department of Justice will accept comments on the act until the consultation closes on January 29, 2010.

The Victims of Crime Strategy was released to the public on August 13. The strategy lays out the framework for improving services to victims in the communities and improving partnerships with First Nations and non-government organizations.

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