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Drivers urged to use caution this holiday season

WHITEHORSE – The Yukon government, Yukon Liquor Corporation, Whitehorse RCMP and MADD Whitehorse reminds Yukoners that the holiday season is upon us and encourages everyone to be safe while enjoying this year’s festivities.

“The holiday season is great time to spend with friends and family and I urge Yukoners to ensure they plan ahead to get home safely,” Highways and Public Works Minister Archie Lang said. “Making responsible decisions will keep yourself and others on the road safe this year. Remember there is always another option.”

“If you drive right, you will be in our sight!” RCMP Traffic Services has partnered with MADD Whitehorse to implement a good driver reward program. A few lucky designated drivers will be rewarded with one of 25 gift packages donated by local businesses.

“This is an excellent opportunity to not only educate and encourage people to not drink and drive but to also reward those drivers who are making the roads safer by being designated drivers,” Corporal in charge of M Division Traffic Services Shawn Pollard said.

RCMP will be conducting regular check-stops this month to check for impaired drivers. These check-stops are a yearly tradition during the holidays to deter impaired drivers and also to encourage designated, sober drivers.

“MADD Whitehorse would like to thank all the local business that donated to the “good driver” reward program,” president of MADD Whitehorse Alvin Pederson said. “We encourage all Yukoners to drive safe and sober over the holiday season.”

Alcohol-impaired driving remains a serious issue on Yukon roads. Last year the RCMP charged 279 people with impaired driving in Yukon, while 104 drivers received 24-hour roadside suspensions.

“I would personally extend my appreciation to those designated drivers who take action to get them and loved ones home safely, thereby making our communities safer,” Lang said.

For more information on safe winter driving, visit www.hpw.gov.yk.ca.

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