

FOR RELEASE #05-88  
April 7, 2005

**CORRECTIONS CONSULTATION PUBLIC MEETINGS STARTED**

WHITEHORSE – Public meetings on corrections reform are underway in Yukon communities as part of the territory-wide public consultation on corrections.

The Corrections Consultation will lead to a plan for reforming corrections programs and services that meet the needs and goals of offenders, victims and the community.

The consultation is directed by an executive committee, whose members include Justice Minister John Edzerza, Council of Yukon First Nations Grand Chief Eric Morris, Kwanlin Dun First Nation Councillor Jason Shorty; Liard First Nation Councillor Darryl Stewart; and Ross River Dena Council Representative Lloyd Caesar.

Round one of the public consultation begins April 11, 2005 with meetings throughout the Yukon. The project team will visit each community to ask Yukoners about the challenges facing offenders, victims, families and communities, the effectiveness of programs and services, and their vision for reforming corrections in Yukon.

In addition to public meetings, the project team will also hold meetings with chief and councils, mayor and councils, non-government organizations and any groups and individuals with an interest in improving corrections programs and services. Written submissions will also be accepted. An interim report on what was heard will be released at the end of round one.

Round two of the community consultation will begin in mid-September and Yukoners will be asked what should be included in a draft action plan. The draft plan will be discussed by representatives of First Nations, communities and non-government organizations at a summit in early December. It will be reviewed again by the minister and chiefs' roundtable on corrections and will be finalized in 2006.

Information about the consultation is available on the consultation web site at [www.correctionsconsultation.yk.ca](http://www.correctionsconsultation.yk.ca) and will be provided through ads, posters and brochures.

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