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DRAFT CORRECTIONS ACT AND REGULATIONS RELEASED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

WHITEHORSE – A new draft *Corrections Act* with accompanying regulations has been released for public comment.

“This new act will put Yukon on the leading edge of corrections practice in the country,” Justice Minister Marian C. Horne said.

The draft *Corrections Act* and *Regulations* contain a set of modern principles, new sections governing collaboration with First Nations and non-government organizations, provisions for First Nations and culturally relevant programming, a provision that creates a new position of Director of Inspections and Standards to address discipline and complaints, innovative alternate measures sections dealing with inmate discipline, a new program integration section, provisions for the creation of a community advisory board, and a new process for earned remission.

A community consultation tour was conducted last winter and spring. A progress report used to draft the Act and Regulations was released in July of this year.

“During the consultation our government heard that First Nations and stakeholders wanted more time to review a draft so we have revised the consultation schedule to allow for a tabling of the legislation in spring 2009,” Horne added.

The draft *Corrections Act* and *Regulations* are available on the Department of Justice website at: www.justice.gov.yk.ca. Consultation on the package will continue until January 30, 2009. The public may submit comments via the website or in writing to the Department of Justice. A final consultation report will be released in early 2009 after the consultation has ended.

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Contact:

Matthew Grant
Cabinet Communications
867-633-7961
matthew.grant@gov.yk.ca

Dan Cable
Policy and Communications, Justice
867-667-3508
dan.cable@gov.yk.ca