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CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCATE CONSULTATION PROCESS

WHITEHORSE – Minister Glenn Hart is introducing a consultation process on the development of a Child and Youth Advocate.

“The need for a child and youth advocate was identified many times during the consultations on the *Child and Family Services Act*,” Hart said. “This is important legislation that will be designed in the best interest of children.”

The government will engage First Nation governments in a focused consultation process, as well as speaking with lawyers specializing in family law; foster parents, school councils and boards; children and youth, parent and grandparent groups, the Ombudsman and the general public.

“Development of a *Child and Youth Advocate Act* presents us with a unique opportunity to create a made-in-Yukon model that addresses the specific cultural and political realities of Yukon,” Hart said. “A youth advocate will promote collaboration by working in partnership with children and youth, their families and service providers.”

First Nations will be invited to attend a two-day symposium to provide input on the made-in-Yukon model for Child and Youth Advocate legislation. A discussion paper outlining this approach will be available in November for those wishing to learn more and provide input.

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