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**Victims of Crime Strategy Released**

WHITEHORSE – The Government of Yukon has released a strategy that will improve access to services for victims of crime, Justice Minister and Minister responsible for the Women's Directorate Marian C. Horne announced today.

"This strategy will ensure that Yukoners who are victims of criminal activity have the support and information they require," Horne said. "We are committed to helping Yukoners achieve healthy, safe communities."

The Victims of Crime Strategy is designed to:

- acknowledge, formalize and strengthen the government's existing services;
- explore new and emerging initiatives, including legislative options, to provide more services; and
- work with others to examine new supports for victims of crime.

The strategy includes strengthening the focus on the needs of victims of crime with an emphasis on addressing violence against women.

"Victims deserve a voice in the justice process," Horne added. "Now is the time to engage stakeholders to prepare for this important new act."

The Government of Yukon will consult with Yukoners on the creation of a victims of crime act and has been collaborating closely with stakeholders through a legislative advisory committee.

Flowing from the consultation on corrections, a strategic plan was created to implement the recommendations from that consultation, one of which is the Victims of Crime Strategy.

The Victims of Crime Strategy is one of many action items the government is delivering, which also includes implementing the Substance Abuse Action Plan, building a new correctional facility, re-writing the *Corrections Act*, and changing the way government meets the needs of Yukoners.

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