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## **YWCA YELLOWKNIFE DISMAYED BY DECISION TO DELAY OPENING DETACHMENTS IN GAMETI AND WRIGLEY**

Yellowknife (Nov. 15, 2010): YWCA Yellowknife is dismayed by the RCMP decision to delay establishing detachments in Gameti and Wrigley. Instead of providing a place for police to live and work in those communities, the RCMP has said work will not begin on the detachments for at least another three years. In the meantime, RCMP offices in Behchoko and Inuvik are scheduled for renovations.

“Communities without a full-time RCMP presence struggle to maintain safety – especially for women,” says Lyda Fuller, executive director of YWCA Yellowknife. “It’s distressing to know that buildings have a higher priority than victims,” she added. A total of 11 communities of the 33 in the Northwest Territories don’t have RCMP who live and work on site.

The Northwest Territories has one of the highest rates of spousal assault in Canada. Women are five times more likely to need the services of a family violence shelter than women in the south. Most victims are aboriginal women ages 25 to 44. According to information compiled from police forces by Statistics Canada, 16 per cent of all violent incidents involve spouses. More than half of those incidents involved physical force and 8 per cent involved weapons (2006 numbers). On average, a woman is murdered by her partner every other year in the Northwest Territories.

A woman was murdered in Gameti almost two years ago by her partner. “This is a case where I believe having RCMP in the community full time would have made a difference,” Fuller says. “Intervention on site could have saved her life.”

Fuller is calling on the RCMP to review its decision and give top priority to establishing the detachments people in Gameti and Wrigley urgently need and deserve. “Women’s lives are at risk.”

For more information, contact Lyda Fuller at [lyda@ywcanwt.ca](mailto:lyda@ywcanwt.ca) or by phone at 920-2777 ext 310.

### **About YWCA Yellowknife:**

YWCA Yellowknife is a non-profit agency that operates Yellowknife’s only family violence shelter, the 12-bed Alison McAteer House. Last year the shelter served 300 women and children, and turned many others away because of a lack of space. YWCA Yellowknife also provides transitional and emergency housing programs for families at the Rockhill apartments. It is the largest provider of residential support for people with disabilities. YWCA Yellowknife also offers confidence-building programs for girls and fee-for-service after-school programs for children ages 5 to 11 at every school in the city. YWCA Yellowknife has been serving the people of the north since 1966.