



YWCA
YELLOWKNIFE



NEWS RELEASE

Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition one step closer to providing transitional housing for women and women with children

Yellowknife: December 9: The Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition has passed a motion to identify YWCA Yellowknife as the owner and operator of a new transitional home for women and women with children. The vote took place at a Coalition meeting last Tuesday.

“We are pleased to have YWCA Yellowknife, with its long track record of housing and effective service delivery for women, and its financial stability, associated with this project,” said Coalition co-chair Amanda Mallon.

The 29 member organizations of the Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition include numerous NGO agencies such as The Salvation Army, SideDoor Youth Centre, Centre for Northern Families, John Howard Society, NWT Seniors Society, North Slave Housing Corp and other non-profit agencies, as well as all orders of government departments including the City of Yellowknife.

“This decision presents us with a wonderful opportunity to extend the continuum of housing to women and women with children,” says YWCA Yellowknife executive director Lyda Fuller. “There is a well documented need for this project to help the most vulnerable people in our community,” she added. YWCA Yellowknife research from three years ago estimated as many as 1000 women are homeless in the NWT.

The Coalition and the YWCA will seek government and corporate support to build a multi-unit transitional home. Work will begin immediately to secure the further funding required to build the home. “We hope to attract a group of government, corporate and private donors who believe in the need for this project.” says Mallon.

The home is proposed to be built on the 54th Street four downtown adjacent lots purchased by the Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition last March. The Coalition and YWCA Yellowknife look forward to working with nearby residents to ensure the building is a welcome addition to the neighbourhood.

For more information or an interview, contact: Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition, Amanda Mallon, Coalition Co-chair: amallon@yellowknife.ca or 920-2016 or **YWCA Yellowknife**, Lyda Fuller, Executive Director: lyda@ywcanwt.ca or 920-2777 ext 310.

BACKGROUNDER

About the Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition: The Coalition was formed in 2000 in response to the Federal government’s homelessness initiative and call for a community plan. As a result of that plan, two housing projects were constructed; one in N’ dilo and one in Dettah, operated by the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. In addition, the Coalition provided funding toward the construction of an 8-plex building operated by the North Slave Housing Corporation. These units have been providing shelter to those at risk of being homeless. In 2004, the Coalition envisioned what later came to fruition as *Bailey House*. This project served to fill an identified gap in transitional housing for men. With the successful partnership of the federal and territorial governments as well as private business and community citizens, the newly constructed 32 unit men’s transitional home was completed in 2008.

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.