

YWCA NWT Celebrating 60th Anniversary as the Northwest Territories' Largest Non-Profit Social Services Organization

YELLOWKNIFE (January 6, 2026) The year 2026 marks the YWCA NWT 60th anniversary, commemorating 60 years of tireless advocacy, unconditional support, and transformative impact for women, girls and families across the Northwest Territories.

Since 1966, YWCA NWT has transformed from a small team providing housing for a growing population of single, working women to the largest non-profit social services organization in the North. Today, YWCA NWT has more than 80 staff, a range of housing, family violence shelter, legal, childcare, family and youth programs, and positively impacts the lives of more than 4,000 NT residents annually.

“The world and the North have changed a lot in the past 60 years and so have we. I’m proud of our ability to adapt to the needs of families and a major reason we’re still here and continue to grow is how we’ve been able to evolve to meet the needs of those who need us most. It’s humbling to hear from people how much the YWCA means to them and how their lives have changed because of our programs and our staff. It’s something we don’t take lightly, and we are committed to making sure we have the same positive impact on families’ lives for decades to come. As we celebrate our 60th anniversary, we reflect on the generations of women, children, and families who have found support, empowerment, and hope through our doors. This milestone is a testament to our community’s strength and our team’s dedication. Looking ahead, we renew our promise to listen deeply, to adapt to evolving needs, and to champion equity and opportunity for those we serve. The YWCA’s legacy is built on partnership and progress, and together, we will continue to create lasting change for the next 60 years and beyond”, said Hawa Dumbuya-Sesay, Executive Director YWCA NWT.

“One of the most incredible things about YWCA NWT is its ability to adapt, grow and evolve based on what communities need, and to anticipate challenges and opportunities that contribute to women and family’s safety, empowerment, and ability to thrive. Today, we are driven by our bold new vision to make lasting change throughout the Northwest Territories by creating equitable and inclusive Northern communities where women, girls and families feel safe, respected and empowered.” Said Aïda Nciri, interim board president, YWCA NWT.

YWCA NWT will have events throughout the year to celebrate this milestone anniversary, and highlight its programs, staff and clients monthly on [Facebook](#) and the [YWCA NWT website](#). It will also kick off a fundraising campaign to support its [youth empowerment programs](#), GirlSpace and Dudes Club.

YWCA NWT recently released its new [five-year Strategic Plan](#) to help guide its continued growth, impact and commitment to creating equitable and inclusive Northern communities where women, girls and families feel safe, respected and empowered.

[YWCA NWT 60 Year History Timeline](#)

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The YWCA NWT advocates for and serves Northern women, families and youth. We provide safe and supportive housing as well as a range of integrated and culturally relevant programs and services that contribute to their safety, empowerment, and ability to thrive.