

IMPACT REPORT 2020

For fiscal year ended March 31, 2020



A TURNING POINT
FOR WOMEN

A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This marks my 35 and final year with the YWCA movement, the past 23 of which I have been proud to be the Executive Director of YWCA NWT. I've loved this job, the staff and this community, and I want to thank our Board of Directors for their focus this past year on finding new leadership for YWCA NWT. This was the first full year of operations without Rockhill family transitional housing facility. Our new reality of delivering housing support to families spread across the city highlighted that our strength is our staff: their knowledge of the community, housing and income resources, and commitment to how to best support families is incredible. We have learned a lot, and we continue to explore options to build more housing units that are safe and affordable for families, but this will require time, funding commitments and partnerships. We embarked on two projects, both supported by Women and Gender Equality Canada: a five-year project to build our capacity to address the systemic barriers slowing down women's progress and advancement, and a multi-year pilot project to launch safe homes in three remote NWT communities that do not have women's shelters. At the end of our fiscal year, we received funding from the City of Yellowknife to provide Housing First programs, which is key to moving people experiencing homelessness into independent, permanent housing and providing additional supports and services as needed. The Covid-19 pandemic that struck at the end of the fiscal year in March caused many of our programs and services to be delayed or disrupted, but our family violence shelters remained open to women and their children.

On behalf of YWCA NWT, I want to thank our donors, supporters and generous community partners for helping us to be there for women and families when they need us most.



LYDA FULLER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RETIRING NOVEMBER 2020



@ywcanwt



@YWCANWT



ywcanwt.ca

ABOUT YWCA NWT

YWCA NWT believes that women, girls and families should be the leaders in their own lives, and must have the rights, resources, and opportunities to shape their own lives, strengthen their families and define their future.

VISION

Equality for women and girls in a safe Northern society.

MISSION

We help create a safe Northern society for women and families to reach their full potential.

STRATEGIC GOALS(2016-21)

1. Be a strong voice for women, girls and families in the North.
2. Continue to develop an innovative and sustainable organization.
3. Provide programs and services that increase safety for women and girls.
4. Provide safe, supportive, timely and affordable housing to women and families.
5. Provide accessible programming for Northern youth and families.
6. Collaborate and invest in partnerships and capacity building to strengthen Northern services.

Board of Directors

- Sarah Arngna'nnaq (President)
- Shelby Brothers
- Liz King
- Miriam Pallard (Vice-President)
- Lena Schofield
- Keelen Simpson (Vice-President)
- Kathy Spooner

Management Team

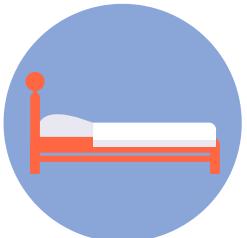
- April Davies, Manager, Sutherland House
- Hawa Dumbuya-Sesay, Director of Child & Youth Services
- Lyda Fuller, Executive Director
- Charlotte Henschel, Director of Finance
- Debby Rybchinski, Manager, Alison McAteer House
- Alayna Ward, Director of Community Relations
- Kate Wilson, Director of Housing

OUR IMPACT 2019/20



202 women received support while fleeing family violence at Alison McAttee House and Sutherland House Family Violence Shelters.

107 children stayed with their mothers at the shelter.



5536 safe bed nights spent at our two family violence shelters.



430 referrals made to a traditional healer or Elder, land-based program, counseling, addictions support, hospital or health centre, children's program, legal services, and others.



2640 women received immediate, anonymous support via our crisis line.



303 children attended fun, child-centred, affordable after-school programs.



18 affordable after-school childcare programs operated at 6 Yellowknife schools.



94 families housed through our Transitional Housing programs, including **188 children and 122 adults** who received support to rebuild their lives and plan for their family's future.



172 parents and 247 children accessed engaging, stimulating, fun programming at the YWCA NWT Family Centre.



84 families had a more joyful Christmas through our community sponsor program.



61 women kept safe from their abuser through an Emergency Protection Order



39 people found employment through our skill-building, job training, and job matching program

OUR PROGRAMS

Transitional Housing

What makes transitional housing different from ordinary housing is the care and attention of family support workers, who work with each family on issues that have destabilized the family's housing in the past such as debt, addictions, violence, disability, or other factors. We work with families to acquire housing, make positive changes like repaying rental arrears and saving for a damage deposit, and take part in workshops and skill building in cooking, employment, budgeting, parenting, and literacy. With the loss of the Rockhill family housing complex, we have also been building relationships with local landlords to increase family housing options across the city and operate from a Housing First model.

Family Violence Shelters

YWCA NWT operates two of five family violence shelters in the Northwest Territories. Many communities have no shelters, RCMP, or adequate mental health support services. It takes a lot of courage for a woman to leave the familiarity of their home and often, their community, to escape violence and find safety and security at a shelter. At YWCA NWT shelters, women come to depend on staff support and guidance and find a non-judgemental place to move forward in her life in the way that works best for her (and often, her children). With a rate of family violence nine times that of the rest of Canada, it's no surprise our shelters are often full. At the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, YWCA NWT experienced a 50% increase in requests for Emergency Protection Orders, with increased isolation putting women at increased risk of violence. We continue to work with women – in person and over our crisis line – to make a safety plan and to encourage people to intervene when they suspect violence is present.

Child & Youth Services

Trained program staff provide after-school childcare at Yellowknife schools from ages three (JK) to 11, from dismissal until 5:30 p.m. To provide continued support for parents and caregivers, programming is also offered for early dismissal, professional development days, and March break. We also provide self-empowerment programs for youth, as well as fun, engaging, free programming at the YWCA NWT Family Centre, and deliver the Project Child Recovery program for children who witness abuse, to ensure they have support and to encourage healthy coping strategies.

What people are saying about our after-school program:

- *"Thanks again for all your amazing support and quality programming. The YWCA program in Yellowknife was a big part of our lives here and our boys truly enjoyed every minute of it." Parent, after-school program*
- *"I have learned how quickly children develop even in the span of a week, and how quickly they learn and pick up on new things. In the future, I believe I will be able to take my knowledge and experience I gained with you and apply it to working with youth. Thank you again for taking the time to allow myself and my classmates to work alongside your staff. Aurora College practicum student, after-school program*
- *"Thank you for everything you do. Our child's excitement for the after-school program is a testament to how well you do your job." Parent, after-school program*
- *"Thank you for all of the nurturing care and kindness you show each and every day. We are so lucky to have people like you in our child's life." Parent, after-school program*

OUR FINANCIALS

Revenue

Government Grants & Service Contracts	\$ 3,723,790	64%
Rental (Homes & Apartments)	\$ 806,747	14%
Program Fees	\$ 779,505	13%
Donations	\$ 74,928	1%
Other	\$ 106,423	2%
Administration (generated f/our programs)	\$ 341,470	6%
Total	\$ 5,832,864	100%

Expenses

Family Violence Prevention Programs	\$ 1,582,635	29%
Housing Programs	\$ 2,185,436	40%
Child & Youth Services	\$ 1,155,398	21%
Administration	\$ 334,513	6%
Other (specific projects)	\$ 153,896	3%
Total	\$ 5,411,878	100%

Thank you.

Thank you to our donors and community supporters in the territory and beyond who help us serve families to move forward.

Thank you to our volunteers and advocates who show up and speak out about the importance of gender equity.

And thank you to the women and families we serve throughout the Northwest Territories who inspire us with their strength, courage, and perseverance.



Ryfan Electric/Adlair Aviation donated proceeds from their annual women's charity golf tournament to YWCA's GirlSpace youth empowerment program. Their theme: Girlpower!



Our incredible supporters at the annual Christmas gift drive bring holiday cheer to families. Above: Bank of Montreal makes Christmas brighter for the children at Alison McAteer House. Below: The Angel Tree Project drops off gifts for the women and children of Lynn's Place.

YWCA NWT food programs have become a favourite with Transitional Housing clients, where they learn how to make affordable family meals, share food together, and take some home to share with others.