



YWCA
NWT

A TURNING POINT
FOR WOMEN

IMPACT REPORT

For the year ending March 31, 2022



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Message from Executive Director & President

The theme of this year's Annual Report is Advocacy in Action, highlighting our ongoing work to build safe and equitable communities where women and families can realize their full potential. We had a busy year full of challenges, new initiatives and learning experiences. Our pilot project to provide Safe Homes in three communities across the NWT was slightly delayed due to public health restrictions but we made some great connections with communities. Staff shortages in our after-school childcare program continued to persist, and we had an increase in the number of women requesting Emergency Protection Orders to keep them safe from their abusers as well as an increased overall demand for our services, particularly from families in need of safe, affordable, secure housing.

Year two of the pandemic cast a brighter light on the crisis of lack of affordable family housing. Supporting families facing insecure housing conditions is a cornerstone of our work and turning homeless families away because of a lack of housing stock is heartbreaking for both the family and YWCA staff. We continued our awareness campaign on family homelessness and launched a rent stabilization campaign about the need for government regulation to ensure tenants aren't forced out of their rental units due to exorbitant increases in rent. Work on this campaign will continue next year. Through our homelessness prevention program, YWCA prevented many families from becoming homeless by paying their rental arrears or outstanding utility bills and distributed hundreds of food hampers and grocery cards.



Hawa Dumbuya-Sesay
Executive Director

Affordable housing is an issue that needs major support, investment, and creative problem solving from all levels of government and social services agencies working together to resolve this crisis and we will continue to advocate on behalf of families.

Despite challenges, our programs continued to go from strength to strength. We successfully advocated for multi-year funding to provide more stability for several of our housing and family violence programs. We also partnered with Scotiabank ScotiaRISE initiative to provide an Employment Readiness Support Program. Their \$500,000 multi-year investment will allow YWCA NWT to help people overcome barriers to employment and enter or re-enter the workforce. We are eagerly awaiting the outcome of our application through the Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation (CMHC) Co-Investment fund to build a 21-unit, \$18 million transitional housing and program building in downtown Yellowknife. If approved, this building will fill a major housing need in our community.

YWCA NWT is a non-profit organization built on a strong financial foundation that other Canadian YWCA's look to for guidance and expertise. We are proud of our work and invite you to review this Annual Report to learn more about our programs and the tremendous impact we have on the lives of women, youth and families.

We want to give a sincere thank you to our dedicated Board of Directors, our committed staff and our donors and supporters who help make our work possible.



Kate Reid
Board President

Vision

Equality for women and girls in a safe Northern society.

Mission

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

Goals 2021-24

01

Provide accessible programming for Northern families and youth.

02

Ensure safe, affordable and adequate residential options are available for YWCA NWT's clients.

03

Effectively advocate for YWCA NWT's needs in our communities and territory.

04

Continue to develop an innovative and sustainable organization.

Board of Directors 2021/22*

Kate Reid
President

Keelen Simpson
Vice-President

Shelby Brothers
Rose Jiang
Rachel MacNeill
Kathy Spooner
Katherine Barton

*Year ending March 31, 2022



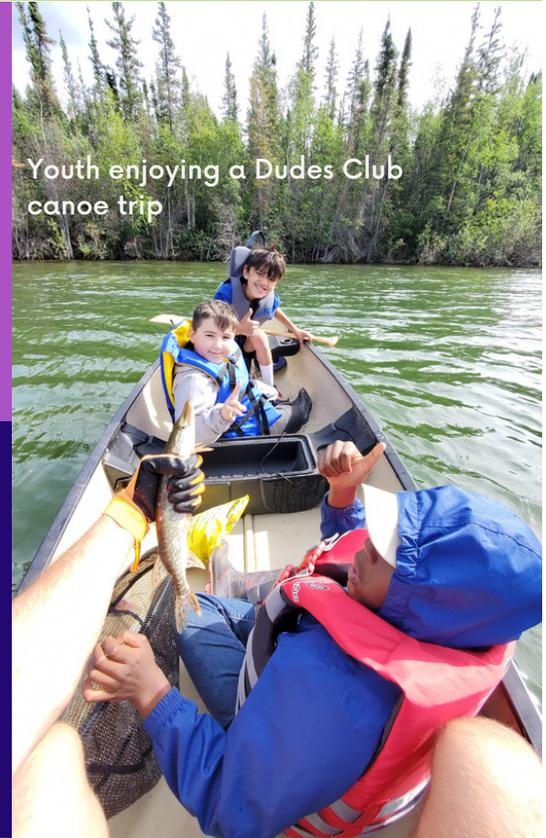
Our Impact 2021-22

226

families accessed
Family Centre
programming

youth who benefitted
from empowerment
programs Dudes Club
& GirlSpace

99



Youth enjoying a Dudes Club
canoe trip

255

affordable after-
school spaces offered
at Yellowknife schools

70

average number of
families on YWCA
affordable housing
wait list

122

women who found
safety at our two family
violence shelters (with
53 children)

women kept safe from
their abuser through an
Emergency Protection
Order (EPO)

103

crisis calls
answered

2,450

Clients preparing food together



1,185

safe bed nights
spent at our family
violence shelters

96

Families prevented from becoming homeless by assisting with rental arrears and outstanding utility bills.



Activities and toys galore at the YWCA NWT Family Centre



Staff preparing food hampers for transitional housing clients

101

Families housed in our Transitional Housing Program (194 children)



YWCA NWT Transitional Housing Staff

55

average number of families weekly who accessed food security programs (meat, groceries, and grocery gift cards)

families (243 children) who had a more joyful Christmas through our holiday sponsorship program

114

93

participants completed courses to improve their hiring prospects (First Aid, hospitality, food safety, and others)

23

found employment or upgraded current job through YWCA skills training and job placement program

29

Women housed at Lynn's Safe Place for Women (with their 19 children)

YWCA Programs

Transitional Housing

YWCA NWT offers supportive temporary and emergency housing options to women and families. Family support workers work with each family to look at issues such as debt, addictions and violence that have destabilized the family's housing in the past and to get them out of homelessness or prevent them from becoming homeless. YWCA NWT does not currently have its own family transitional housing facility, so we work with families to acquire rental housing, make positive changes (such as repaying rental arrears and saving for a damage deposit) and learn new skills such as cooking, budgeting, and job training.

In 2021, YWCA NWT received funding from the ScotiaBank SCOTIARISE fund for the YWCA Employment Readiness Support Program. This program provides skills training and job-matching assistance along with support that helps lead to employment success such as literacy and numeracy skills and referrals to counseling and other supports to help clients holistically move forward in their job and career journey.

The goal of the YWCA Transitional Housing program is to help families find stability so they can move on to permanent housing in public housing or market rentals. The demand for affordable housing is at an all-time high and the lack of affordable family housing reached crisis levels during the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving few options for families.



Lynn's Safe Place for Women
in downtown Yellowknife

Food security remains a major issue for NWT families, and YWCA NWT distributed hundreds of food boxes containing meat and groceries, as well as grocery gift cards, to families who were forced to choose between buying groceries and paying other bills. Thanks to the Rotary Club of Yellowknife, Ecclesiastical Insurance, Community Food Centres Canada and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada Good Food Access Fund for providing funding to support YWCA NWT food security programs.

Thank you to our other funders and supporters of the Transitional Housing Program: City of Yellowknife, Government of the Northwest Territories, United Way NWT, Yellowknife Community Foundation and the NWT Literacy Council.

Lynn's Safe Place for Women

Lynn's Place (also known as Hoti Etsanda Ko) offers a stable, safe, affordable place to call home for women who need safe housing after leaving a violent relationship, or who are ready to find stability in a safe environment. Children under 16 can stay at Lynn's Place with their mothers. It contains 18 suites on three floors and rent is affordable, using CMHC affordability guidelines. Family support workers provide trauma recovery and support programs and referrals, on the land healing programs, and assistance to secure permanent housing. Lynn's Place is thankful for our major supporters: Government of Canada Women & Gender Equality and Indigenous Services Canada, Government of the Northwest Territories, Dragonfly Ventures Pandemic Resiliency, and the Canadian Women's Foundation.

Family Violence Shelters

The Northwest Territories continues to have the second-highest rate of family violence in Canada, behind only Nunavut. Unfortunately, there has been little to no improvement in the rates of family violence in the territory in decades. The NWT also has the second-highest rate of sexual violence in the country.

This year, YWCA NWT continued to see increased numbers of women seeking Emergency Protection Orders (EPOs), a temporary court order typically granted in urgent situations where family violence has occurred. In the first year of the pandemic, the number of women seeking EPOs nearly doubled, a trend that continued this past year with the numbers remaining nearly identical to the previous year's increase.

Our Safe Homes pilot project continued in 2021/22. This project aims to provide safe homes in three smaller, remote communities that currently do not have family violence shelters. Safe homes differ from shelters in that they are an identified space in a community - perhaps a home, nursing station, apartment, or other safe space - where a woman fleeing violence can have a safe place to go without leaving her community. While pandemic restrictions did cause some delays in this project, program staff made some great community connections and work will continue in 2022 and beyond to establish these safe spaces in NWT communities.

YWCA NWT operates two family violence shelters: one in Yellowknife and one in Fort Smith, and also provides support and guidance to other shelters across the territory.

Alison McAteer House, Yellowknife

Alison McAteer House is a secure, anonymous place for women to receive 24/7 support while they are fleeing violence. The shelter has six bedrooms with a capacity of 12 beds, and children can live here with their mothers. Staff provide women with guidance and support to help determine their options and provide empathy, emotional support, and service referrals. Women from across the Northwest Territories and Nunavut can call the toll-free crisis line so staff can assess each situation and help women make a safety plan no matter where they live.

Sutherland House, Fort Smith

YWCA Sutherland House is an 8 bed, 24/7 shelter in Fort Smith that provides safety and support for women and their children experiencing violence, as well as a crisis line. A woman can stay for up to six weeks, depending on her needs and circumstances. Children are welcome to stay with their mother. Staff offer individual support, safety planning, weekly in-house groups on topics such as education and awareness on the dynamics of family violence, and life skills support, as well as emotional support, advocacy, and service referrals for women.



Family Centre

Creating strong families is at the core of everything we do and YWCA NWT operates all our early learning programs from principles of inclusion and family-centered care. With a focus on wellness for every family, the Family Centre offers programs for children up to age five that help enhance parenting skills, encourage physical activities and social skills and provides a safe space to engage with children through play and learning. Also available at the Centre is the Toy Lending Library, offering interactive toys and books that families can reserve for free and use at home. This past year the Family Centre adapted operations many times due to COVID-19, including increased cleaning and sanitation practices, offering virtual programming and providing take-home craft and activity bags when in-person programming wasn't possible.

After-School Care

Access to affordable childcare is important for women's equality and financial security, for children's safety and well-being, and contributes to the economic strength of our communities. We work closely with parents, caregivers, and local schools to provide quality play-based learning and childcare in a safe and fun environment to help ensure best outcomes for all children. YWCA typically offers 255 full-time licensed childcare spaces within three programs, located at six schools in Yellowknife. This past year, YWCA NWT worked to overcome challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic including staff shortages due to illness, isolation and ongoing school closures, which led to a reduction in the amount of childcare spaces available. Because YWCA NWT is a licensed childcare provider, we must maintain a set staff/child ratio to ensure children and staff safety and security.

Family Centre and Childcare programming supported by: Government of the Northwest Territories.



What parents are saying...

"Thank you for another wonderful year (on-and-off, on-and-off!) of after-school care! The staff are amazing!"

"Thank you for all the love and care you put into the After-school Care Program. It has made a huge difference for our family and made our child feel happy and comfortable at school. We hope you know how much you are valued!"

"I have my kids at the Range Lake North after school program. I just wanted to let you know how much we love the staff and their enthusiasm. I really feel great about having the kids there this year. I know its probably been a hard couple years and I just thought I would share the positive. The staff seem to really care about the well-being of the kids and provide a nice safe environment for them."

"My daughter gets so excited seeing the staff outside of after school care!"

"My kids think of the after-school care staff as part of their family."

Project Child Recovery & Dudes Club

Project Child Recovery is for children and youth who have witnessed or experienced trauma such as family violence, substance abuse, grief and loss, and bullying. Project Recovery offers them a safe place to explore and celebrate the fact that they are one-of-a-kind. Participants are encouraged to talk about their feelings, explore healthy coping strategies, discover a support system, develop a safety plan and enhance their self-esteem.

Dudes Club is a fun, free empowerment and leadership program for youth in-school and after-school program for those who identify as boys, from ages 8-14. This program focuses on creating strong and resilient young leaders in our community. This proactive program promotes healthy coping strategies for children and youth, focuses on creating strong and resilient young leaders by creating a safe place for youth to explore their passions and gifts and ensures they have the support and services they need. Programming for both takes place at a YWCA program space, and in schools in Behchokò, N'dilo, Dettah and Yellowknife.

The PCR Dudes Club has had quite the year with COVID-19 restrictions, but this hasn't stopped the YWCA from having an amazing year with the children and youth in the program. Topics and outings the past year included beaver mitt workshops, fishing, making medicine bags, bullying, goal setting, drug and alcohol awareness, self-esteem and respect, and virtual sessions and activity take-home bags when public health restrictions were in place.



What people are saying...

"The thing I like best about my child participating in the program is how you teach the kids to be responsible and have respect. Thanks so much!"

"This program provides male role models for my son as he lacks that in his life, and for that we are very grateful."

"I've seen a major positive change in my child's behaviour outside of program now. Their confidence and self-esteem improved, and they were able to start full days at school and form friendships."

"Dudes Club is the best thing that ever happened to me since being in Yellowknife."
Participant, age 10

"Thank you for pushing my child to be a good kid. Thank you so much. You don't know how much impact you have had on this child. I sincerely appreciate you. May you be blessed for eternity."

GirlSpace

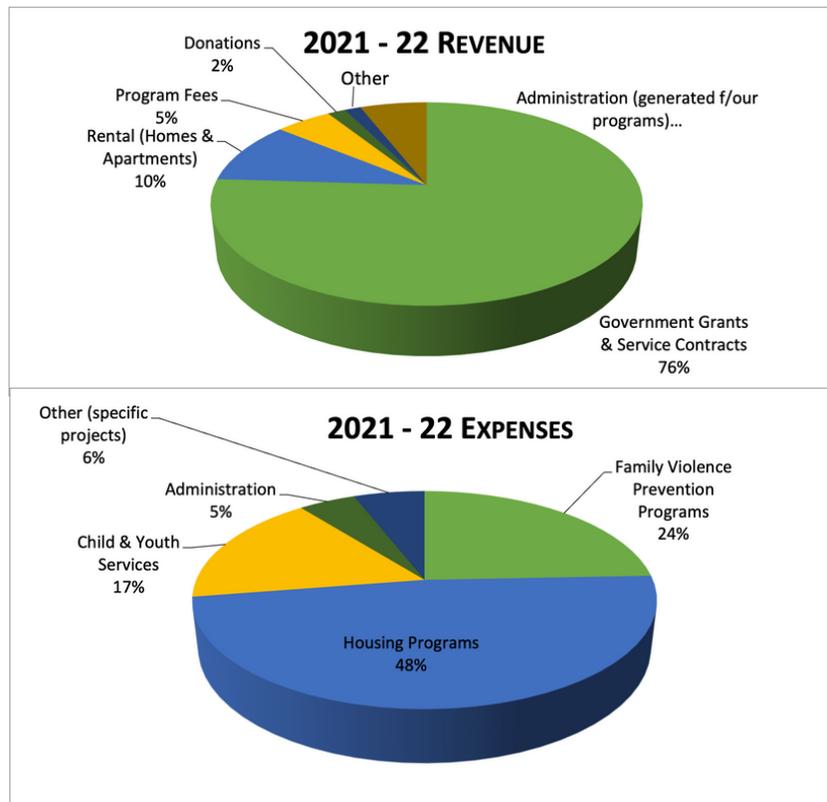
GirlSpace is a youth empowerment program that builds self-esteem, promotes community involvement, and empowers youth to make healthy choices. This is a free leadership program for those who identify as a girl, ages 8 to 17.

Operating in-school and after-school, GirlSpace also had to be creative with a combination of virtual and in-person programming, offering topics and sessions such as a community cleanup, visits to the Rainbow Coalition, sexual assault awareness, environmental justice, beach outings, self-care, arts and crafts, setting goals, bullying, and community building.

Thank you to supporters of our youth programs: Government of the Northwest Territories, Canadian Women's Foundation, On the Land Collaborative, and City of Yellowknife.

Financial Highlights

YWCA NWT carefully tracks our revenue and expenses and our financials are reviewed and audited annually to ensure transparency and accountability to our donors, supporters, clients, and community.



Revenue		
Government Grants & Service Contracts	\$ 5,573,779	76%
Rental (Homes & Apartments)	\$ 729,151	10%
Program Fees	\$ 369,531	5%
Donations	\$ 119,157	2%
Other	\$ 104,663	1%
Administration (generated f/our programs)	\$ 437,828	6%
Total	\$ 7,334,111	100%

Expenses		
Family Violence Prevention Programs	\$ 1,701,758	24%
Housing Programs	\$ 3,359,090	48%
Child & Youth Services	\$ 1,175,462	17%
Administration	\$ 330,974	5%
Other (specific projects)	\$ 412,728	6%
Total	\$ 6,980,012	100%

Thank You

Thank you to our major funders, our generous NWT community and local businesses for your support and generosity - we couldn't do what we do without you! Because of your support, families had food on their tables, youth had opportunities to learn and grow, and women, children, and families had a safe place to call home. We are so grateful for the generous support that helps us continue to serve women and families, each and every day.



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE



Yellowknife
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



WOMEN'S
SHELTERS
CANADA

Shelters and
Transition Houses
United to End Violence
Against Women



Community
Impact Grant



United Way
Northwest Territories



community food centres
CANADA good food is just the beginning



We thank you for your
continued support in
our programs.

YWCA NWT
P.O. Box 1679
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P3
867-920-2777
www.ywcanwt.ca
giving@ywcanwt.ca