



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

## FACT SHEET INFORMATION RE: ENCAMPMENTS

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### RECENT CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES

The City of Yellowknife acknowledges that homelessness is occurring and remains dedicated to working with various levels of government and organizations to find a sustainable solution.

The *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* provides the City of Yellowknife (City) the authority to plan, zone, develop and make available land within the City's boundaries for municipal and public purposes, including housing. Public housing (including emergency shelters and supportive transitional housing) is outside the City's legislative mandate and core functions.

In setting out their 2023-2026 Strategic Directions, City Council prioritizes a people first approach by facilitating a safe, accessible and inclusive community that supports the well-being of all residents. This includes a focus on housing for all, with the commitment for the City to do its part in creating the context for diverse housing options.

The City continues to work collaboratively with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) in information sharing and coordinating communications regarding access to housing and shelter for vulnerable populations.

The City has taken the actions below to help the homeless within our community. Initiatives include:

- Leading the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (CAB). The purpose of the CAB is to recommend to Council the adoption of a Community Plan as well as advising on the Reaching Home funding allocations.
- Providing \$4.3M in funding during the 2024/25 and 2025/2026 fiscal years to several NGOs who have mandates to provide shelter and services to the homeless population through the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness. This funding is specifically for the implementation of programs which contribute to increasing access to permanent housing, diverting people from homelessness and providing capital to upgrade shelter facilities. The City will continue to work collaboratively with organizations who provide services these to the homeless.
- Funding the Street Outreach Program, which is designed to increase safety for vulnerable members of the community by providing transportation and necessities. The City recently hired a contractor to review the Street Outreach Program. The results of this review and the

corresponding report will be presented to the City's Governance and Priorities Committee in September 2024.

- Organizing an annual Community Round Table on Homelessness. The purpose of the Round Table is for community members to have the opportunity to contribute their ideas and connect with others around housing solutions for Yellowknife.
- Allocating millions of dollars in federal funding to converting Aspen Apartments into non-market, supportive public housing.
- In 2022, the City provided \$5 million in funding from the Rapid Housing Initiative plus a 5-year tax abatement to assist in the creation of affordable rental housing for at-risk individuals.
- In 2021, the City provided almost \$900,000 to Home Base, through Reaching Home funding, to purchase YK Apartments.
- Supporting the GNWT strategy to address homelessness: "A Way Home: A Comprehensive Strategy to Address Homelessness in the Northwest Territories".

In addition taking actions to assist the homeless population, the City is also working on initiatives to increase affordable housing for the general public, including:

- Transferring land to the GNWT for \$1 to facilitate development of affordable housing (lots 8, 9 & 10, Block 31, Plan 65 transferred to Northwest Territories Housing Corporation).
- In 2022, the City donated four plots of land to Habitat for Humanity for the establishment of four homes.
- Securing federal funding through the Housing Accelerator Fund to take action to remove systemic barriers to housing supply and to increase housing in the community.