

Homelessness in Yellowknife



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Brief History of Homelessness in Yellowknife

- The City of Yellowknife became the Community Entity in the mid 2000's
- We have conducted two PiT Counts – 2015 & 2018
- Commissioned a 10 Year Plan to end Homelessness (2017)
- Commissioned a Building a Coordinated Access Model (2018)

Reaching Home - Where are we now?

- The Community Advisory Board on Homelessness is funding the following programs:
 - Housing First for Adults (20 single Adults)
 - Housing First for Families (Supporting approximately 15 families)
 - Prevention/ Rapid Re-Housing For Youth (assisting approximately 12 adult Youth and 8 babies)
 - Community Capacity Building: Lateral Violence Training, Indigenous Case Management, VAT Training, YAP Training, Case Note & Documentation Training etc.

Other homelessness initiatives

- City of Yellowknife Funds
 - Street Outreach Program – noon to midnight 7 days a week, 365 days a year
 - Homelessness Employment Program
 - Healing Camp – Morning Program
- Government of the Northwest Territories Funds:
 - Sobering/ Day Shelter
 - Salvation Army
 - Men's Transitional Housing
 - Cognitive Disability Housing

Other homelessness initiatives continued

- Arctic Indigenous Wellness Foundation
 - Healing Camp – urban on-the-land cultural site
 - Mentorship, support, traditional counselling, traditional food, traditional tool making and on-the-land teachings
- Side Door Youth Ministries
 - Hope's Haven – emergency shelter & transitional housing
 - Resource Centre for Youth – Practical supports and life skills, counselling, employment training etc.

Other homelessness initiatives continued

- Salvation Army
 - Emergency/overnight shelter, meals, sober transitional housing for men
- NWT YWCA
 - Family Violence shelters, Safe Housing for Women, Employment Program & other specialized programming
- Yellowknife Women's Society
 - Women's emergency shelter, transitional housing, weekly walk in clinic, food hamper program etc.

Results of 2018 PiT Count – what we've learned...

- For a municipality of roughly 20,000 people in April 2018 there were 338 people counted as experiencing homelessness
- 42% of this number were youth under the age of 24 years of age
- Most people want to be housed (95%)
- 75% of those experiencing homelessness were experiencing chronic homelessness



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What we've learned con't

- 90% of those experiencing homelessness reported Indigenous identify, a significant over representation compared to the overall Yellowknife population of 23% Indigenous

Migration

- Most of those experiencing homelessness are migrants to Yellowknife. A third of those surveyed had arrived in Yellowknife in the last five years. Two top reasons reported for migration were to connect with family and employment opportunities

Reasons for Migration to Yellowknife

- 22% self reported moving to Yellowknife because their family moved here
- 18% self reported moving to Yellowknife to seek employment
- 9% self reported coming to access emergency shelter(s)
- 7% self reported coming to Yellowknife to find housing and
- 6% self reported coming to access services and supports

Migration

- Migration from other NWT communities is a major driver
- 68% of people arriving from other communities in the NWT are arriving from Behchoko, Hay River and Inuvik
- 32% are arriving from other territories/provinces – Kugluktuk, Edmonton and Montreal

Obstacles to Finding Housing

- 62% said their income was too low
- 54% said rent was too high
- 30% Addiction
- 29% aren't on income assistance
- 18% Family Breakdown/Conflict
- 13% for each of the following:

- Criminal History

- Health/Disability Issue

- Domestic Violence



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Next Steps...

- Start a Coordinated Access Committee and Governing Body
- Continue to progress the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness:
 - Look for Permanent Supportive Housing solutions in Yellowknife for the most vulnerable
 - Form an Interagency Council that includes persons with lived experience
 - Explore innovative social finance and enterprise options to increase affordable housing in Yellowknife