

Everyone is Home

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada

Project Description: This initiative is Yellowknife’s 10-year plan to end homelessness in the community. It defines the needs of vulnerable community members and outlines the steps necessary to meet those needs. It also describes the role of participating community organizations, and the current programs in place to support the Yellowknife community.

Distinguishing Features: This program is defined by a focus on trauma informed care and intergenerational healing after Canada’s colonial past

Population Focus: Homeless Indigenous Peoples

Program report: <https://www.yellowknife.ca/en/living-here/resources/Homelessness/EVERYONE-IS-HOME---YELLOWKNIFE-10-YEAR-PLAN-TO-END-HOMELESSNESS-FINAL-REPORT-JULY-2017.pdf>

SUMMARY

Yellowknife’s plan to end homelessness focuses on Indigenous homelessness as a colonial legacy. Residential schools, intergenerational trauma, and systemic marginalization have deeply impacted the lives of Indigenous individuals and have resulted in significant housing challenges within this population.

Everyone is Home aims to promote reconciliation and provide homeless individuals with the support they need to build “Vibrant, Resilient, and Sustainable Communities.”

Developing Yellowknife’s Strategic Plan

Yellowknife’s strategic plan was spearheaded by Turner Strategies, a consulting firm that specializes in planning large-scale social change. The plan was shaped by extensive qualitative research with community members invested in the housing crisis. Researchers spoke with a total of 63 people over 6 months, representing a wide variety of individual perspectives and experiences. These conversations included indigenous community members, Elders, service providers, government representatives, and individuals with lived experience.

Turner Strategies created a draft plan based on the input gathered, and data on homelessness service practices. The draft was presented to the Yellowknife Community Advisory Board on Homelessness, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and the City Council for feedback and revisions, and then implemented within the community.

The main theme from the lived experience interviews was a call for healing. Mental health, addictions, trauma, and abuse were often cited as the root cause behind individual experiences of homelessness. These interviews highlighted the need for holistic support services in the community to ensure continued housing stability for service users.

Yellowknife Community Advisory Board on Homelessness

The Yellowknife Community Advisory Board on Homelessness consists of government and community organizations working together to end homelessness in the city. The board enlisted the help of Turner Strategies to create a strategic plan for optimizing housing services in Yellowknife and meeting the needs of Indigenous community members facing homelessness.

Turner Strategies

Turner Strategies is a consulting firm that supports communities in developing plans for large-scale social change. They specialize in community engagement, strategic planning, research, and program development.

www.turnerstrategies.org

CONNECTED ORGANIZATIONS

Side Door

Side Door is a community-based agency that provides support services for youth in Yellowknife. Established in 1995, they focus on empowerment-based programming for youth with nowhere else to turn. Their programs include housing services, mental health and addiction supports, and life skills instruction. They also provide literacy and employment services for youth working to achieve goals and take steps towards successful living. [See Hope's Haven PDF for more info]

sidedooryk.com