



Helping women and families
reach their full potential since 1966



50TH ANNIVERSARY

YWCA Yellowknife 2015-16 Annual Report

Message from Executive Director and Board President

For 50 years, the YWCA of Yellowknife has been working with women and families across the North to help them reach their full potential. As the North's largest and longest serving women's organization, we have experienced our share of change. We have grown from one small house providing housing to single working women to a robust organization that has evolved to meet the needs of women, children and the community by providing women shelter from their abusive partners in two shelters and communities, two transitional housing apartment buildings for families, violence prevention programs, affordable after-school child care, and our youth empowerment programs, GirlSpace and Dudes Club.

As we reflect on our 50th anniversary year and the past five decades of service to the community and the north, we are proud of our work as active agents for positive change. We have worked to enhance the quality of life for women and their families, address social issues, and build coalitions across the lines of class, age, race and ethnicity. And in doing this work, we have partnered with various levels of government, organizations and individuals who realize the importance of changing the status quo when it comes to attitudes towards family violence and the importance of keeping women safe, families housed, and children educated.

This past year, we organized new events and activities to raise the profile of the YWCA and raise awareness of the work we do. In December, we partnered with the City of Yellowknife to Light the Night Against Violence and Yellowknife City Hall was

lit in red to raise awareness of the need for action on violence against women. And in April, we held our first Inspire Luncheon with Roberta Jamieson, who addressed a sold-out crowd where she highlighted the importance of youth education and support for indigenous youth. The YWCA was also a community partner with the University of Regina on important research entitled *Rural and Northern Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence*.

The YWCA is working to be even more visible and active in the community in the years to come. We will ramp up efforts to address family homelessness with our government and community partners. We will continue efforts to improve and increase the capacity of our family violence shelters. And we will tirelessly work to build resilience in children and youth through our prevention and empowerment programs.

Although we have come far over the past five decades, there is still more to be done – despite our efforts, the Northwest Territories still has one of the highest rates of domestic violence in the country. More women need a safe place to live, more children need inclusive spaces to learn and grow and more families need help in their journey to build a better life. We will continue to be a strong voice for women and families in the north, and look forward to the next 50 years as we continue our work to build safe and equitable communities where women and their families can reach their full potential.

— Lyda Fuller and Janet Toner



“ Our mission is to build safe and equitable communities where women, girls and families can realize their full potential. ”

Help to heal

*YWCA executive
director
extends
assistance*

by Dorothy Westerman
Northern News Services

Focusing on homelessness takes up a big part of Lyda Fuller's work day.

But it's the help she and the YWCA are able to provide that Fuller enjoys most about her job as executive director.

In existence in the North since 1966, Fuller says the YWCA first opened its doors in Yellowknife by way of invitation from the Commissioner.

Lyda Fuller – Dedicating her career to the YWCA for the past 30 years.

YWCA Yellowknife isn't the only one celebrating a milestone. This past year, Executive Director Lyda Fuller celebrates her 30th year leading the organization. Lyda has been the Executive Director of YWCA Yellowknife since February 1997. Lyda first came to the Yellowknife YWCA during the summer of 1996, on loan from the YWCA Regina, where she was also the Executive Director. She moved to Regina in 1991 from the YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin where she was the director of community development. Lyda moved to Canada in 1983 from Baltimore, Maryland, where she worked for the Maryland State Medicaid Program as the director of special initiatives. She became a Canadian citizen in 1986. Lyda has a Bachelor of Arts in psychology from the University of Maryland, and a Master's of Liberal Arts from Johns Hopkins University. She has several recognition awards, including an NWT Wise Woman Award, the Cleta Herman Award, YWCA Canada's highest honour, the Woman of the Year Award from the YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin, and a semi-finalist for Maryland State government's Women Manager of the Year. Lyda's determination, persistence and dedication has changed lives of women and families across Canada over the past three decades and she has played a key role in shaping the success of YWCA Yellowknife.



Women of the YWCA: 'Lyda Fuller, Lynn Brooks, Ruth Spence'

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Kayla Cooper, Vice-president
Caroline Wawzonek, Vice-president
Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox
Rassi Nashalik
Brienne Timpson
Kristy Thorpe
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Charlotte Henschel, Director of Finance
April Davies, Manager, Sutherland House
Janette Morris, Director of Child and Youth Services
Debby Rybchinski, Manager, Alison McAteer House
Kate Wilson, Director of Housing

YWCA Leadership

A Look Back: Five Decades of YWCA Yellowknife

The YWCA has been central to life of women in the north since 1966. From its modest start providing housing to single working women, YWCA Yellowknife has evolved to meet the needs of women, children and families in Yellowknife, Fort Smith and beyond.

photo stories YELLOWKNIFE, November 30, 2012 11
'Yellowknifers never disappoint us'

1966

YWCA Canada and YWCA Toronto answer a request from government to provide housing for a growing population of single, working women in Yellowknife. A local committee is struck to establish a YWCA in the Northwest Territories and the first office opens in Northern United Place.

1968

The new YWCA Yellowknife opens the doors of a seven bed residence for working women.

1969

YWCA opens its first summer camp for children.

1972

YWCA opens first day care centre in the NWT (Yellowknife), and continues to expand child care spaces through the decade. These day care programs lasted until the mid-1990s.

1974

YWCA opens the first after-school program at Mildred Hall School – a program that continues today in every childrens' school in the city. YWCA Yellowknife is the largest provider of licensed child care in the Northwest Territories through our afterschool program.

1978

YWCA Yellowknife expands housing options; opening a large residence in Northern United Place.

1986

- The 12 bed Alison McAteer House opens in Northern United Place and is named after a former YWCA president and city councillor.
- YWCA Yellowknife opened its first group home for adults with disabilities who need support

1991

A second group home for adults with disabilities opened.

1995

YWCA Yellowknife closed its group homes and moved adults with disabilities into their own shared apartments. The YWCA continued to provide in-home support.

1996

The Alison McAteer House family violence shelter housed at NUP moved into a separate building, specially renovated to provide safety for women and children.

1997

YWCA Yellowknife administration office moved out of Northern United Place to make way for the Aurora College campus. The transitional and emergency housing programs for families moved to the 39-suite Rockhill apartment complex on 54 Avenue where it continues to this day.

2000

YWCA begins offering Project Child Recovery, a program that helps children who have witnessed violence learn the skills to cope with their experiences and remain safe.

2003

YWCA begins offering in-home support and outreach for people with chronic psychiatric illness. YWCA purchases the first of five homes for clients who need in-home support.

2006

YWCA offers first Power of Being a Girl Conference for girls ages 12-14, a violence prevention initiative to build confidence and self-esteem.

2008

YWCA partners with Taiga Adventure Camp to provide a summer camp for both pre-teen and teenage girls in Fort Smith. Taiga achieved independence in 2012.

2009

YWCA begins offering GirlSpace, a youth empowerment program, to girls ages 8 to 13. The Y Mentors program is later offered, where young women are matched with a mentor to support the mentees in reaching their academic, career, and personal goals.

2010

YWCA spearheads project on how to increase safety options for women living in small, primarily Indigenous communities without RCMP detachments.

2011

YWCA Yellowknife hosts YWCA Canada's Annual General Meeting in Yellowknife, the first time in the North.

2013

YWCA withdraws from providing housing to people with disabilities and mental health issues. Construction begins on the new Betty House, transitional housing for women and women with children.

2014

YWCA opens Lynn's Place, (formerly named Betty House).

2015

YWCA begins offering Dudes Club, a program to build strength and resilience, to boys ages 6 – 12.

2015

Publication of *Legal Pathways – Spousal Violence in the NWT: A Resource for Women* A comprehensive resource guide for women experiencing family violence.

YELLOWKNIFE, Friday, February 13, 1999 A13
YWCA celebrates new digs

YWCA Yellowknife Programs and Services

Child and Youth Services



After-School Program

The YWCA offers a licensed, affordable afterschool program for children ages 5 to 10 years old, at a cost of \$280 a month. The program is available at every school in Yellowknife from class dismissal until 5:45 p.m. YWCA Yellowknife also offers additional hours of programming for professional development days and March break. Each program is staffed by a qualified adult, assisted by a high school student. Last fiscal year, there were 276 children in afterschool care.

ywcawt.ca/after_school.html

Project Child Recovery

Project Child Recovery (PCR) is a proactive program that promotes healthy coping strategies for children who witness abuse and ensures children and youth who have experienced violence receive the support and services they need to build self-esteem, manage anger constructively and explore what healthy relationships look like. YWCA Yellowknife offers supportive peer group sessions delivered by a social worker in local schools to youth ages 6 to 14. Last fiscal year, the program was delivered in two schools and was filled to capacity with six boys in each program.

www.ywcawt.ca/projectchildrecovery.htm

Dudes Club

Dudes Club is an extension of Project Child Recovery and takes place after-school at YWCA Rockhill, twice a week. The participants renamed the group 'Dudes Club'. This resiliency-focused leadership follows the same curriculum as Project Child Recovery and values physical activity, assertive communication, community service, and media literacy. It is a safe place for boys to talk about the challenges they face as young people while providing outlets for them to learn about themselves and develop skills they can apply as they mature. Dudes Club is free to participants. This past fiscal year, the groups were filled to capacity with 12 boys in total attending the junior and senior boys program.

www.ywcawt.ca/children-and-youth/dudes-club.



GirlSpace

This free leadership program provides a unique opportunity for girls to get together for fun, friendship and support. They can discuss issues they face on a daily basis in a non-judgmental setting. Groups meet weekly during the school year and at workshops throughout March break and summer and are facilitated by a registered social worker. GirlSpace also offers summer workshops, outings, and community outreach/volunteer opportunities. Girls meet weekly after school and occasionally in school, grouped according to age. GirlSpace is free to participants. The groups were full all year with a waitlist for all. Last fiscal year, there were 10 girls who participated in the junior group (ages 9-10), 10 girls in the intermediate group (ages 11-13) and 9 girls in the senior group (14-17). Ten summer workshops were held, with 10 girls attending each session.

www.ywcanwt.ca/children-and-youth/girlspace



Empowering young women

Girlspace, a new YWCA program, aims to help girls build self-esteem, leadership



Y Mentors

This program provides small group mentoring for girls ages 11 to 13. Participants get individual attention from older girls (ages 14 to 17) and adults. Together they work on social, personal and academic development. The groups meet every two weeks for two hour activities and stay in touch by email between meetings. Adult mentors are screened and training is provided. Last fiscal year, 25 girls participated in Y Mentors.

www.ywcanwt.ca/children-and-youth/y-mentors

Family Violence Programs

Spousal violence is prevalent in the NWT, occurring at nine times the national average, according to Statistics Canada. Keeping women safe and providing women and children shelter from abuse is a key element of the YWCA's mandate. YWCA Yellowknife offers two family violence shelters: Alison McAteer House in Yellowknife and Sutherland House in Fort Smith. These shelters are open to women and families who are fleeing family violence or have nowhere else to go. During their stay, staff provide crisis support, advocacy and help women identify options for a life free from abuse.



Alison McAteer House

Alison McAteer House is used by women and children from across the Northwest Territories. The 12-bed Alison McAteer House family violence shelter is often full to capacity. In the last fiscal year, the shelter was home to 147 women and 100 children, with most clients staying less than a month. Women most often reported being abused emotionally or psychologically by their partner. Physical abuse and financial abuse are also common complaints. Staff at Alison McAteer House answered over 2000 crisis line calls and assisted 90 women to apply for emergency protection orders; 42 of which were assessed as high risk. When granted by the court, emergency protection orders keep abusers away for up to 90 days.

www.ywcanwt.ca/family-violence/alison-mcateer-house.

Sutherland House

YWCA Yellowknife began operating Sutherland House family violence shelter in Fort Smith in October 2014. Sutherland House is an eight-bed shelter that provides both safety from violence and emergency housing for women. In 2015-16, 106 women and 121 children stayed at Sutherland House. Women most often reported psychological and emotional abuse from a relative, followed by physical abuse and being unable to find housing as the reason they needed services. On average, they stayed one to four weeks. Sutherland House operates a 24-hour crisis line that fielded 321 calls last year.

www.ywcanwt.ca/family-violence/sutherland-house-fort-smith

news

Northern women at higher risk of homelessness – study

Staff of the Northern Shelter Network



Housing Programs

THE ISSUE:
Funding for shelters

WE SAY:
Time to lobby louder

Family Housing Program, Rockhill apartments

YWCA Yellowknife offers emergency and transitional housing to families who would otherwise be homeless, living in overcrowded or unsafe conditions, or split up because of a lack of space. What makes the transitional housing program unique is the support staff provides to tenants. YWCA family support workers assist clients in acquiring skills that will enable them to stabilize their families and living situations, and move into permanent housing. In the last fiscal year, 25 families lived in the short-term emergency units (49 children), while 43 families (78 children) lived in the transitional suites. In the transitional suites, 14 families moved back to their home communities or into private local housing.

Demand for this affordable, staff-supported housing is strong, and the wait list often tops 100 families. The family housing program is supported by the GNWT and Dominion Diamond Corporation.

www.ywcanwt.ca/temporary-housing/rockhill

Women's Safe Housing, Lynn's Place

Lynn's Place is an 18-unit building that provides safety for women, and women with children, who have experienced family violence. It is not an emergency shelter like Alison McAteer House, but transitional housing where tenants pay rent. Residents are welcome to stay until their circumstances improve. Lynn's Place began taking tenants in October 2014. In the last fiscal year, 33 women and 45 children have called the building home. Of those, 17 people moved on to public housing in Yellowknife, or back to their home community. Programming at Lynn's Place is supported by the GNWT. For more information, go to

www.ywcanwt.ca/temporary-housing/lynns-place

14 YELLOWKNIFE, Wednesday, October 24, 2012

news

Low-income families wait in line for housing

YWCA Yellowknife seeks donations to cover cost of running Rockhill apartments



YWCA Yellowknife Life Members

YWCA Yellowknife awards women with life memberships for their dedication to the organization and commitment to improving the lives of women and families in the NWT.

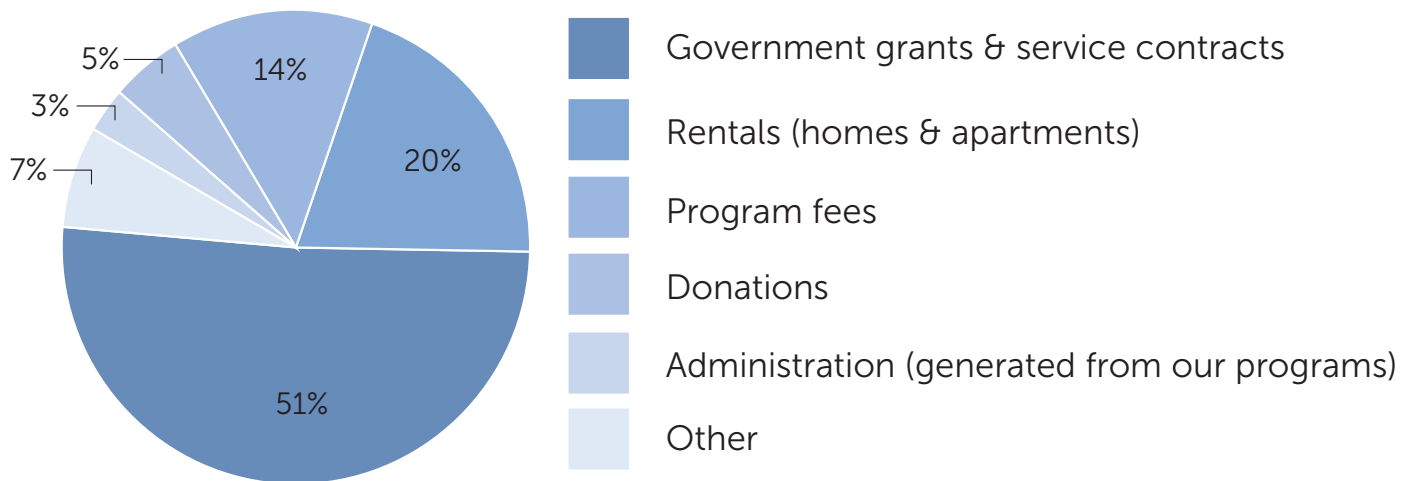
Yasemin Heyck (2015)
Karin Taylor (2015)
Julie Green (2013)
Suza' Tsetso (2012)
Lani Cooke (2012)
Lorraine Sampson (2011)

Marsha Argue (2011)
Vicki Tompkins (2011)
Barb Paquin (2010)
Winnie Fraser McKay (2008)
Esther Braden (2007)
Lynn Brooks (2006)

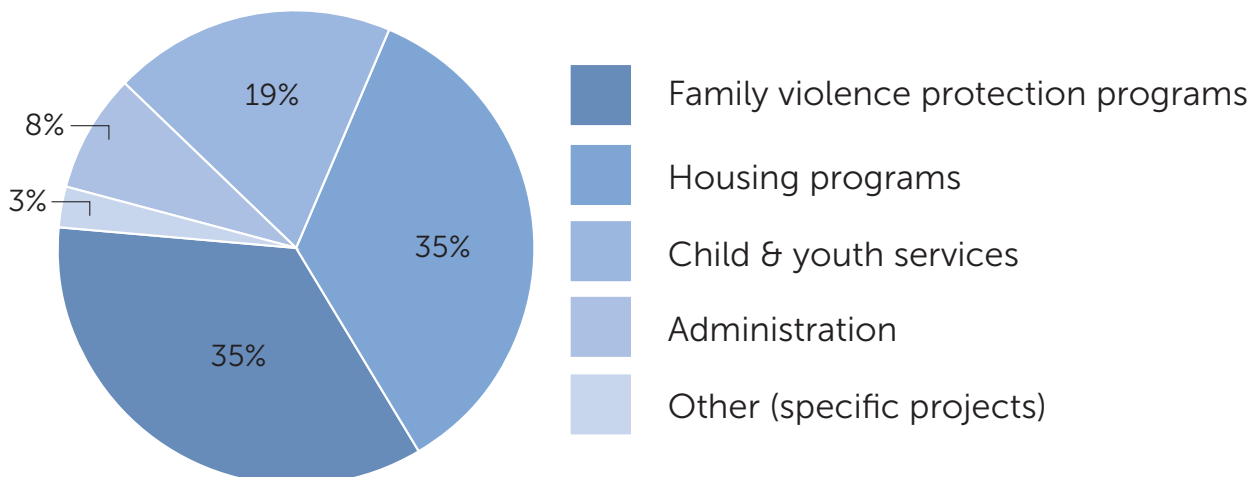
Sue Heron-Herbert (2006)
Sheila Bassi-Kellett (2006)
Ruth Spence (2006)
Roz Smith (2003)
Catherine Cushman-Biddle (2003)
Michele Boon (2003)

Revenue & Expenses

2015/2016 Revenue



2015/2016 Expenses



Thanks to our program funders



Government of
Northwest Territories



Thanks to our donors *(of \$100 or more, monetary or in-kind donations)*

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Kevin and Erin Anderson
Avery Cooper & Company
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*OUR APOLOGIES
TO ANYONE WE
MAY HAVE MISSED.*

We couldn't do it without your support!