

OPEN LETTER TO YELLOWKNIFE BUSINESSES

Individuals and businesses in or from Yellowknife are invited to sign this letter in support, please click [here](#) to sign.

October 4, 2021

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES: We are a group of concerned Yellowknife residents calling on Yellowknife businesses to support the establishment of a day shelter in downtown Yellowknife at the Franklin and 48th location.

The street-involved population is one of the most vulnerable groups in Yellowknife. At least 90% of the street-involved population in Yellowknife are Dene, Inuit and/or Metis. They are residential school survivors or the children of residential school survivors. They are the survivors of intergenerational trauma and colonialism.¹ Most importantly, they are members of this community.

Evidence shows that emergency day shelters are an essential component of a “well-functioning system of care” that addresses homelessness and provides a gateway to permanent housing and essential services.² Covid-19 health restrictions have reduced the number of spaces that street-involved people can access. The current day shelter and sobering centre now have limited capacity and people are being turned away from necessary resources. A temporary day shelter is the bare-minimum of care that must be provided.

We ask that all Yellowknife residents, including business owners, listen to the voices of the street-involved population, front line workers, medical professionals and all concerned residents who are calling for the immediate establishment of a temporary day shelter. The ongoing argument that a shelter nearby is “bad for business” is founded on ignorance and prejudice. We implore you to be leaders in speaking out against the stigma and systemic racism that harm our street-involved citizens and therefore minimize us all.

By signing this letter, we commit to continued support for Yellowknife businesses that endorse a downtown day shelter at the Franklin and 48th location. We will support these businesses by shopping at them and encouraging others to frequent them. We will compile a list of businesses who support the shelter and we will share this list with other concerned and interested residents. Furthermore, we may choose to avoid businesses who actively stand in the way of this shelter.

¹ See “Everyone is Home: Yellowknife’s 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness,” at p. 8:
<<https://www.yellowknife.ca/en/living-here/resources/Homelessness/EVERYONE-IS-HOME---YELLOWKNIFE-10-YEAR-PLAN-TO-END-HOMELESSNESS-FINAL-REPORT-JULY-2017.pdf>>

² See “Everyone is Home: Yellowknife’s 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness,” at p. 44.

CONCERNED YELLOWKNIFE RESIDENTS FOR A DAY SHELTER DOWNTOWN

Yours sincerely,

Zoe Guile

Sara Komarnisky

Nick Sowsun

Christine Cavenagh

Shea Alain

Ellen Gillies

Carter Stirling, Public Servant

Ryan Wallace, Student

Katherine Todd, Geologist

Meggin Creed, Administrative Assistant, Integrated Case Management

Skylar Urschel

Stephanie Van Pelt

Emily Smith

Aggie Brockman

Alisha Gori, Community mental health counsellor

Isis Essery

Ashley Daw

Chelsea Upton

Keirra

Robyn Villeneuve

Julia Cutler

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CONCERNED YELLOWKNIFE RESIDENTS FOR A DAY SHELTER DOWNTOWN

Thomas Gagnon-van Leeuwen, Literacy Instructor, Concerned customer of Breakaway Fitness

Dana Harris

Donovan Erutse

Kathryn Pakenham, FFC-NWT

Charlotte Upton

Jessica Guigon

Pretty Ngo, Student & activist

Amanda Sharma

Cheryl Smyslo, Parent

Heather Seltzer

Phillipe Di Pizzo, Retired

Christopher Oland, Architect

Jill Alain, Speech-language pathologist

Jessica Pawlik

Brie O'Keefe, Business Owner

Nathan Ensing, Business Owner

Claudia Gomez, Teacher

Sabrina Flack, Project Director, Northern Birthwork Collective

Courtney McKiel

Tess Ondrack

Rhoda Andrews

Ali McConnell

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CONCERNED YELLOWKNIFE RESIDENTS FOR A DAY SHELTER DOWNTOWN

Myranda Bolstad

Angela Waller, Business Owner

Nichol Pidborochynski

Iona Strachan

Rosie Benning, Parent and Teacher

Neesha Rao, Yellowknife Women's Society

Emma Junker

Katy Pollock

Aimee Guile

Amy Lea

Amanda White

Colleen Hilman

Christine Wenman, Owner of PlanIt North and co-owner of Sundog Adventures and Sundog Trading Post

Mallorie Malone

Paulina Ross, Student

Stacy Ridgely

Suhkam Dhindsa, Lawyer and downtown resident (The point)

Lena Schofield

Helen Whitworth, Downtown Yellowknife Resident and GNWT Employee

Lana de Bastiani, Public Servant

Jesse Casey

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CONCERNED YELLOWKNIFE RESIDENTS FOR A DAY SHELTER DOWNTOWN

Susan Saunders

Jane Sunderwald, Teacher

Krista Carlson, Teacher

Rachel MacNeill

Renee Saucier

Christine Raves

John Mutford

Korryn Garvey

Zoe Share, Yellowknife Women's Society

Leesa Myers, Program Coordinator

Christopher Schafer, IT Service Technician

Andrew Jossa

Nancy MacNeill

Jay Boast

William Gagnon, resident

Kate Oja

Brian Weadick

April Morin, Medical Education Administrator

Rachel Labreche, Street Outreach, Program Coordinator

Angus Smith

Shannon Moore

Cody Drygeese

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CONCERNED YELLOWKNIFE RESIDENTS FOR A DAY SHELTER DOWNTOWN

Emma Butler, Student

Heather Heinrichs, Registered Midwife

Shylo Foster, Compassionate Human Being

Zack Coady

John Joel Badali, Lawyer

Anneka Westergreen, Social Worker

Tom McLennan

Dustin Martin

Linna Williams, Dayhome Owner

Ionna Reklitis

Ash Steininger, Yellowknife Women's Society

Alanna Williams

Dana Bowen

Marcena Croizier

Pat Kane

Lydia Bardak, Downtown homeowner/resident

Kate Reid

Shelagh Montgomery

Rebecca Du Plessis, Student

Lois Little, Resident

Jolene Saturnino

Jessica Dutton

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CONCERNED YELLOWKNIFE RESIDENTS FOR A DAY SHELTER DOWNTOWN

Dot VanVliet

Michael Westwick, Downtown resident

Aaron Plotner

Jeremy Bird

Jesse Reid

Shawna McLeod

Itoah Scott-Ens, Jdaà Strategies

Nikita Gionet

Jessica VanOverbeek, Parent, downtown worker/shopper/walker

Angele Cano

Skye Plowman

Rogine Olayvar

Jordee Reid

Patrice O'Hara, Purchasing

Jestine Amora

Sophie Maksimowski, Hoèla Weteèst'eèdeè Study Project Coordinator

Andree Amirault, Teacher

Amy Burt, Accountant

Mathew Craig, Secondary teacher

Katharine Thomas

Anita Reis, Health care worker

Mickey Marshall, Public Servant

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CONCERNED YELLOWKNIFE RESIDENTS FOR A DAY SHELTER DOWNTOWN

Karen Menacho, Student - Downtown resident

Brittany Scott

Tanya Ashley

Amanda Annand

Shannon Jennings

Jan Vallillee, Resident

Tom van Dam, Public Servant

Sarah Carr-Locke, PhD, Anthropologist

Kyla LeSage

Nicola Mckenzie, Chef

Kamey Fenwick, Teacher

Rabia Ahmed, Planner, Yellowknife Resident

Harjot Sidhu

Jack Miltenberger

Kirsty Hobbs, Student at Law

Lianne Plamondon, Graphic Designer

Jodi Larkin, Student

Carson Roche, Event Manager

Tee Lim

Alex Brockman

Rob Pascal, Home Owner

Emily Duboc, Downtown Resident and Worker

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CONCERNED YELLOWKNIFE RESIDENTS FOR A DAY SHELTER DOWNTOWN

Aaron Wells, Executive Director - Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories

Alanna Olson, Healthcare Worker, Yellowknife Resident

Maxine Lacorne

Laura Busch

Farraminah Francis

Janelle Bruneau

David Ethan Phypers

Narlie Dapilos

Nicole Hannah

Madeleine Tetrault, Artist

Jessica Maguire

Jessica Simpson, Parent, Tlicho First Nation, Yellowknifer

Miki Ehrlich

Karen Lajoie, Lawyer

Joyce Gourlay

Travis Kamitomo

Alexis Ruettnauer

Michael Fatt, Coordinator/Manager for Common Ground Clean Sweep Project for the homeless

Mere McNulty, Mermaid & Moon

Sophia Chalker, MACP Student

Wendy Lahey, Bushkids

Shanti Madsen, Student

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CONCERNED YELLOWKNIFE RESIDENTS FOR A DAY SHELTER DOWNTOWN

Linsey Doucette

Hannah Clark

Destiny F, Student

Jessie Wilson, Yellowknife resident

Mike Bokor, Chiropractor

Wessam Bou-Saleh

Alexis Campbell

Dana Landry, Parent

Kim Austin

Bryany Denning

Robin Kooymans, Teacher

Samantha Brissette, Case Worker

Clayton Bell

Rosalie Tarleton, Parent

Erica Baranik

Rebecca White

Bob Wilson, Downtown Resident

Luna Liu, Owner Operator / Cai's Kitchen Restaurant

Stephanie, CRINAC

Kaitlyn White-Keyes, Ever Sweet Company - Owner/Chef

Alyssa Carswell

Darcy Taylor, Parent

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CONCERNED YELLOWKNIFE RESIDENTS FOR A DAY SHELTER DOWNTOWN

Sarah Swann

Katherine Barton, Downtown Resident

Dana Pirker

Rev. Dr. Linda Marcotte, Yellowknife United Church Clergy

Tammy Snook

Jessica Mitchell

Ashley Bessette

Karen Wilford, lawyer, parent, human

Kelly Mahoney

Teviah Abman-Dowdell

Maeve Brennagh-Mackie, Barista

Chelsea Dubiel, Engineer in Training, E.I.T

Kelsey Wrightson

Sean Daly

Merril Dean, Psychologist

Danielle Wendehorst, Registered Nurse

Danica Taylor, Student

Jamie Wetrade-Stevenson, Owner of Jamie Stevenson Photography and Program Instructor for InspireNWT.

Theena Mercado

Shayla Richards, Business Owner

Megan Cooper

Ismay Reed

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CONCERNED YELLOWKNIFE RESIDENTS FOR A DAY SHELTER DOWNTOWN

Tiffany Champagne

Erin Zacharias

Alicia Norris

Brittany Russell

Kaitlyn Simms

Sarah Mitchell, Physiotherapist

Kristen Cameron

Mariah Barnaby-Norris, Illustrator

Natasha Moran, Citizen of Yellowknife, mother of 6. Daughter to a father who lost his life due to alcoholism, and trauma.

Richelle Castillo

Ginette Demers, Social Worker

Heidi Wiebe, Yellowknife resident, small business owner

Marina St Croix, Parent, Honours BEd, Home School Teacher with a generous yearly budget (that I often use to support local businesses)

Jill Rivera

Sarah Woodman, Resident

David Vangoietsenoven

Philip Goulet, Pjs Mechanical

Taylor Shephard

Tanya Silke, Registered Nurse

Jessa Garcia, Social Worker

Andrew Wind

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CONCERNED YELLOWKNIFE RESIDENTS FOR A DAY SHELTER DOWNTOWN

Tenzin Dheden, Downtown Resident

Kristal Melanson, Downtown Worker, Parent to 2 Weledeh students

Darla Allen

Gloria Francis, Aurora college Student (ELCC)

Samantha Stuart, Concerned Citizen, Parent

Summer Silke

Charlotte Henschel, Director of Finance

Jill Groenewegen, Owner of bijou boutique

Jackpine Paddle, Our location is 5112 52nd St

Aingeal Stone, Owner, Stone Information Solutions

Jody Pellissey

Kristine McAuley, Downtown resident, worker & shopper

Meagan Wohlberg

Mark Gill, Business Owner

Lacey Bell, Business Owner/Foster Parent

Mark Dryneck, Clean Sweep Supervisor

Christina Carrigan, Public Servant

Dayna Drygeese, Yellowknives Dene First Nation member

Elizabeth Wilson

Kara King

Anna Krizova

Ever Good Stuff / Thrift Store

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CONCERNED YELLOWKNIFE RESIDENTS FOR A DAY SHELTER DOWNTOWN

Eureka Embodo

Tiarella Hanna, Business owner

Jaime Dawn Kanagana Kudlak

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