



OURS TO BUILD ON

HOUSING ACTION PLAN

PROGRESS REPORT

April 2015–
March 2017



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Letter from Housing Action Plan Implementation Committee

We are pleased to provide you with this progress report outlining the success achieved and lessons learned during the first two years of implementation of the Housing Action Plan for Yukon (HAP).

The Housing Action Plan was approved in May 2015 and officially launched in June 2015. The HAP Implementation Committee, made up of key housing stakeholders and partners from across the territory, was formed shortly after. We have completed a number of projects with a focus on education, communication, forums and data collection. As with the early stages of any long-term planning exercise, some of this work involved laying necessary ground work for the actions to come. A communications strategy, a community housing forum to promote the goals and intent of the plan, a guide for potential housing education initiatives and a yukon-wide housing data report were all completed as foundation-laying pieces with the goal of setting ourselves up for long term success.

There are a number of highlights that stand out from the work that was directly supported by the HAP Implementation Committee. The Yukon Housing Data report addresses the need for accurate housing data in Yukon. This was a gap that quickly emerged during the development phase and is identified numerous times within the plan itself. This publicly available report will provide an evidence-based foundation to guide informed decision making and action throughout the implementation process.

The Implementation Committee has also chosen to invest in Pillar #1 of the plan: Housing with Services. The committee proudly supported a new Housing Navigator position with the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition. In partnership with Kwanlin Dün First Nation, the committee also helped to fund a temporary cold weather emergency shelter in Whitehorse.

Since the launch of the Housing Action Plan, there have been several other strategic initiatives and planning groups that closely align with the goals of the HAP. Forward Together, a 10-year Mental Wellness Strategy for Yukon was released in May of 2016. Safe at Home, a community-based action plan to end homelessness in Whitehorse, is expected to be completed soon. The Government of Canada is also in the process of developing National Housing and Poverty Reduction Strategies. These four initiatives share a number of common goals and their objectives and actions are intertwined. It will be important to continue to make connections between these different strategies as they progress.

We are entering a new era with new opportunities for housing and we are excited about the work ahead. We look forward to taking further action towards our shared vision for diverse and abundant housing options that increase the health and stability of individuals and communities in the Yukon.

— *HAP Implementation Committee*

INTRODUC



TION

How the Housing Action Plan for Yukon was Developed

The Housing Action Plan for Yukon is the result of an inter-disciplinary and Yukon-wide collaboration of the territory's housing stakeholders and is meant to address the housing needs of all Yukoners. The Plan was developed in partnership with organizations and businesses across Yukon's housing delivery system to help ensure that the complete spectrum of individual housing needs can be met with available and affordable options.

In March of 2013, the Government of Yukon announced its intention to develop a Housing Action Plan to address housing challenges in the territory. Central to the envisioned planning process was the active participation of the many government, non-government, and private sector organizations and interests involved with or impacted by housing.

Four Yukon government departments worked together to oversee the Plan's development. Yukon Housing Corporation (YHC) facilitated the development of the Plan with the support and participation of Health and Social Services (HSS), Community Services (CS), and Energy, Mines and Resources (EMR).

The planning process was kick-started with a symposium in November 2013 that assembled over 75 government, non-government, and private sector representatives to identify the key housing issues and challenges in Yukon and develop the strategic priorities that would inform the Plan.

Four Working Group Committees were formed and tasked with the development of the key actions underpinning the Plan. These committees met on a weekly to bi-weekly basis from the middle of February to July 2014. Meetings were structured to generate ideas and input that were subsequently refined during multiple reviews.

In August of 2014, with the draft key actions ready to present, YHC staff met with municipalities, housing providers and First Nation government employees in various Yukon communities to solicit feedback and identify the actions that most closely resonated with local needs—or alternately, where there were still gaps.

The committees approached their task with a depth of learned experience and expertise. Some housing challenges were clearly understood and the corresponding results-based action easily articulated. Other issues were more complex and the committees

concluded that a research-oriented action was required to inform sound decision-making.

Similarly, the committees came to quick consensus on what the key issues were and how they could be addressed. Other issues triggered difficult conversations at times. The fact that committee members returned again and again to lend their energy and knowledge to those conversations, however difficult, speaks to their high level of commitment.

A wrap-up symposium was held in October 2014 and provided over 60 stakeholders with the opportunity to review the draft Plan contents and hone in on specific topics, including implementation. The outcomes of the symposium were reviewed by the committees and final revisions were made accordingly.

The Government of Yukon launched the Housing Action Plan at a forum in June, 2015.

List of organizations that participated in HAP development, March 2013 to June 2015:

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Anglican Diocese of Yukon
Association of Yukon Communities
Bank of Montreal
Blood Ties Four Directions
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
Capstone Mining Corporation
Carcross/Tagish First Nation
Catholic Episcopal Corporation of Whitehorse
Challenge Community Vocational Alternatives
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations
Chief Isaac Development Corporation
City of Dawson
City of Whitehorse
Council of Yukon First Nations
Dawson City Women's Shelter
Department of Community Services (YG)
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources (YG)
Department of Health and Social Services (YG)
Department of Justice (YG)
Elizabeth Fry Association of Yukon
Faith Based Housing Task Force
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society of Yukon
Grey Mountain Housing Society
Habitat for Humanity
Help and Hope for Families Society
Inukshuk Planning and Development
Jill Pollack and Company
Klondike Development Corporation
Kluane First Nation
Kobayashi Zedda Architects
Kwanlin Dün First Nation
Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation
Na-Cho Nyak Dun First Nation
NGC Builders
Northern City Supportive Housing

Northern Vision Development
Old Way of Seeing
Options for Independence
Royal Bank of Canada
Royal Canadian Mounted Police "M" Division
Salvation Army
Scotiabank
Selkirk First Nation
Skookum Jim Friendship Centre
Teslin Tlingit Council
Tom Lee Management Consulting
Town of Watson Lake
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation
Village of Carmacks
Village of Faro
Village of Haines Junction
Village of Mayo
Village of Teslin
Vimy Heritage Housing Society
Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation
Watson Lake Chamber of Commerce
Watson Lake Economic Revitalization Commission
Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce
Women's Directorate (YG)
Yukon Agricultural Association
Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition
Yukon Association for Community Living
Yukon Bureau of Statistics
Yukon Chamber of Commerce
Yukon Contractors Association
Yukon Council on Aging
Yukon Council on DisABILITY
Yukon Federation of Labour
Yukon Housing Corporation
Yukon Real Estate Association
Yukon Residential Landlord Association
Yukon Status of Women Council

Overview of the Plan

Housing is a cornerstone of individual, family and community well being. At the individual and family level, housing provides the foundation for health, security, stability and participation in society and the economy. At the community level, housing enables the growth of healthy, resilient citizens who can contribute to a thriving economy, environment, and society.

The Housing Action Plan for Yukon is based on the following values and guiding principles:

Values:

- People deserve dignity and compassion, wherever they are situated on the housing continuum.
- Housing is a key social determinant of individual wellness.
- Housing providers should tailor their approach to individual needs and circumstances, meeting people “where they’re at.”
- There is no “us” and “them”: housing challenges and solutions belong to all of us.

Guiding Principles:

- **Adaptable** – the Plan partners will respond to changing circumstances through innovation and flexibility.
- **Inclusive** – the Plan partners will draw on multiple perspectives and partnerships to both understand and address needs along the housing continuum.
- **Building on strengths and successes** – the Plan partners will look to previous and current successful initiatives for guidance. There is no need to “reinvent the wheel” if an appropriate solution already exists.
- **Results-oriented** – the Plan is intended to achieve real, lasting results. Completing an action isn’t enough; observing and understanding its impact is equally important.
- **Sensitive to local context** – the Plan partners will stay mindful of local realities. An approach with proven success elsewhere may need to be adapted to suit Yukon’s unique circumstances.



The Housing Continuum

The Government of Yukon and its partners have relied on the housing continuum to help frame and identify issues, challenges, and potential solutions throughout the planning

and implementation process. The continuum consists of the various housing options available to individuals and households at all income levels and life circumstances, ranging from emergency shelters for the temporarily homeless to affordable home ownership.

REPORT ON



PROGRESS

Implementation – 2015/16 and 2016/17

The completion of the Housing Action Plan didn't signal an end to the dialogue about housing; rather, it ensured that these conversations were able to continue. The Housing Action Plan created a strong foundation from which governments and organizations involved with housing could begin to design and build solutions together.

Implementation Committee

In June 2015 the Housing Action Plan for Yukon was launched. At the launch event an Implementation Committee was struck, in line with the Plan's objectives, to oversee implementation of the Plan and provide advice, solutions, and recommendations to senior government officials on territorial housing issues. This committee was led by Yukon Housing Corporation and comprised of key stakeholders and partners. Committee members were selected from agencies that either served the entire Yukon or were based in Whitehorse, where the majority of the territory's housing options and service providers are located.

The Implementation Committee has met regularly since its formation to advance the goals and objectives of the Plan and to provide advice on housing initiatives. Temporary sub-committees are routinely struck to develop input into projects and to provide recommendations to the full committee for further direction.

Past and Present Implementation Committee Members:

- Association of Yukon Communities
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
- Challenge Disability Resource Group
- City of Whitehorse
- Council of Yukon First Nations
- Department of Community Services (YG)
- Department of Energy, Mines and Resources (YG)
- Department of Health and Social Services (YG)
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police "M" Division
- Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce
- Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition
- Yukon Chamber of Commerce
- Yukon Council on Aging
- Yukon Housing Corporation
- Yukon Housing Corporation, Board of Directors
- Yukon Real Estate Association
- Yukon Residential Landlord Association

How We Measure Progress

The Housing Action Plan for Yukon is structured under three main pillars: Housing with Services, Rental Housing, and Home Ownership. Each pillar is underpinned by associated goals, objectives and key actions. This framework provides a means for the

Implementation Committee to measure its performance based on pre-determined goals. In the first two years of implementation, many of the issues identified in the Housing Action Plan were addressed through the hard work of Yukon’s housing sector.

2025 VISION

A Yukon where a diversity and abundance of housing options increases the health and stability of all individuals and communities.

1 PILLAR #1 HOUSING WITH SERVICES	2 PILLAR #2 RENTAL HOUSING	3 PILLAR #3 HOME OWNERSHIP
<p>GOAL</p> <p>Help people gain and maintain housing with services.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES</p> <p>1.1 Identify and address key gaps in the delivery of housing with services.</p> <p>1.2 Use education and awareness to increase support for and utilization of current housing with services.</p> <p>1.3 Increase collaboration and effectiveness among housing and/or related service providers.</p>	<p>GOAL</p> <p>Increase access to adequate and affordable market and non-market rental housing and support for tenants and landlords.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES</p> <p>2.1 Identify market and non-market rental housing gaps and potential solutions.</p> <p>2.2 Improve rental outcomes for both landlords and tenants.</p> <p>2.3 Increase the quantity and quality of market rental housing stock.</p> <p>2.4 Increase the quantity and quality of non-market rental housing stock.</p>	<p>GOAL</p> <p>Increase and diversify home ownership options.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES</p> <p>3.1 Increase utilization of First Nation settlement land for residential purposes.</p> <p>3.2 Increase consumer knowledge and awareness of home ownership opportunities and challenges.</p> <p>3.3 Increase the availability and diversity of land for residential development.</p>

DATA AND METRICS

- DM.1 Ensure that collective action on housing issues in Yukon is supported by reliable, current data.
- DM.2 Use data and metrics to monitor progress on the Housing Action Plan.

IMPLEMENTATION

- IM.1 Ensure a coordinated and adaptable approach to implementing the Plan.
- IM.2 Foster communication, collaboration, and partnerships.
- IM.3 Maintain transparency and accountability throughout Plan implementation.

Recent Successes to Build On

In September 2015 the interagency team responsible for developing the Housing Action Plan was recognized with a Premier's Award of Excellence. The work of the Implementation Committee along with the hard work of governments, the NGO community, the private sector and individual Yukoners has resulted in numerous successful initiatives over the last two years that have created housing opportunities across the continuum. These include:

Better Data

- With support from the HAP Implementation Committee, a Housing Data Report was initiated to compile all publicly available housing data for Yukon and make recommendations on how to fill gaps in available information. (February 2017)
- With support from the HAP Implementation Committee, a Housing Education Guide was prepared with specific recommendations to guide the development and delivery of housing education in Yukon. (September 2016)
- Supported by the HAP Implementation Committee, a Communications Plan was crafted to identify strategies to engage, inform and inspire those affected by the HAP. (July 2016)

Greater Public Awareness

- The Housing Action Plan was used to guide Yukon's input to CMHC on Canada's National Housing Strategy. (August 2016)
- YHC and the HAP Implementation Committee hosted the first annual Yukon Housing Forum. (June 2016)
- YHC launched the Yukon Housing Action Plan, in collaboration with housing stakeholders from across the territory, at a public event held in Whitehorse. (June 2015)
- Supported by the HAP Implementation Committee, an Online Housing Portal is being developed as an easily accessible resource for information on available housing options, services, and programs across the housing continuum. (In progress at time of printing)

Increased Funding for Affordable Housing in Yukon

- YHC launched four new funding programs to support sustainable and affordable housing across Yukon. These include First Nations Partnership, Victims of Violence, Emergency Repairs and Affordable Rental Construction Programs. (August 2016)
- YHC signed the Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF) Agreement under the Agreement for Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) with CMHC to double the federal funding levels for affordable housing in Yukon for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 fiscal years. (April 2016)



GOAL: **Help people gain and maintain housing with services**

“The recent Point-in-Time count has confirmed what we’ve known for a long time. An alarming number of people in our community are homeless or precariously housed and the time for action is now. I believe that staying true to the intent of the Housing Action Plan will take us where we need to go—as community partners and neighbours working together to end homelessness.”

— Bill Thomas is a co-chair of the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition and a member of the HAP Implementation Committee

In the last two years in Yukon:



90 units were added to Yukon government’s stock of Housing with Services in Whitehorse.

8 units in Whitehorse are rented through the LWEH (Landlords Working to End Homelessness) program

As identified in the Whitehorse Homelessness Point-in-Time Count (April 2016), there are:



45 unsheltered people

22 people living in emergency shelter

15 people who are provisionally accommodated

137 people who are at risk of homelessness in Whitehorse

Recent successes related to Pillar #1 include:

Better data

- The Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN), the Yukon Planning Group on Homelessness and local volunteers conducted Whitehorse's first Point-in-Time Homeless Count. (April 2016)

More housing with services

- HSS and Kwanlin Dün First Nation, in partnership, opened a temporary cold weather emergency shelter in downtown Whitehorse. (February 2017)
- HSS opened the new Sarah Steele Alcohol and Drug Services building in downtown Whitehorse which provides 50 temporary beds available to individuals receiving treatment for addictions. (September 2016)
- HSS created 10 additional continuing care beds in Whitehorse's Thomson Centre. (September 2016)
- HSS opened the new St. Elias Adult Group Home, a 10-bed facility on Hoge Street in Whitehorse that provides housing for adults with cognitive disabilities. (April 2016)
- YHC introduced the Accessibility Enhancement Grant to fund accessibility improvements to homes. This grant also supported Pillar #3 (Home Ownership). (June 2015)
- HSS purchased the Oblate Centre on 6th Avenue in Whitehorse and created 10 additional temporary continuing care spaces. (February 2015)

New and enhanced services for vulnerable people

- CYFN, Yukon's Community Entity for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS), directed federal funding towards the following projects: (2015/16 and 2016/17)
 - > A Housing Navigator program at Blood Ties Four Directions Society.

- > Support for the Landlords Working to End Homelessness (LWEH) program at the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Society Yukon (FASSY).

- > The Salvation Army Emergency Shelter in Whitehorse.

- > A Housing Navigator position at Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre.

- > A Housing Coordinator position at Selkirk First Nation.

- With support from the HAP Implementation Committee, the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition hired a Housing Navigator to coordinate the efforts and advocate on behalf of the community of housing navigators in Whitehorse. (December 2016)
- HSS opened the Integrated Supports for Yukon Youth (ISYY) Centre in Whitehorse to assist youth in accessing the services they require. (August 2016)
- Kaushee's Place approved for \$160,000 under YHC's Victims of Violence Program. (July 2016)
- HSS established the Housing Outreach Support Team (HOST) to assist YG social assistance clients with housing-related support. (June 2016)
- HSS increased the home care budget for individuals requiring care in their homes by \$244,000. (May 2016)

Coordinated efforts

- HSS, along with CYFN, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Mental Health Association of Yukon, released Forward Together, a Yukon mental wellness strategy. (May 2016)
- Stemming from the Vulnerable Peoples Initiative, Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the City of Whitehorse, in collaboration with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Government of Yukon and community stakeholders, are leading the creation of Safe At Home, an action plan to end homelessness in Whitehorse. (In progress at time of printing)

GOAL:

Increase access to adequate and affordable market and non-market rental housing and support for tenants and landlords

“We’ve had a huge problem in Dawson with our housing shortage. We’ve lost some great community members because they couldn’t find a place to live. People are saying ‘please put me on the list, please just sign me up.’ This project is filling a very real need in our community and we’re grateful to partner with Yukon Housing and the City of Dawson to come up with a solution. We’re a non-profit organization run by volunteers, it was a big job but definitely worth it.”

— *Brian Stethem, President of the Klondike Development Organization, on the anticipated impact of new rental housing in Dawson City*

In the last two years in Yukon:



150 new private market rental units were created through incentive programs

140 rental units were improved as a result of the rental enhancement grant:

110 rental units improved in Whitehorse

30 rental units improved in rural communities

94 families, on average, per year received rental supplements (95 in 2015/16 and 93 in 2016/17):

85 in 2015/16 in Whitehorse

10 in 2016/17 in rural communities

89 in 2015/16 in Whitehorse

4 in 2016/17 in rural communities



Recent successes related to Pillar #2 include:

More rental housing

- The City of Whitehorse's Development Incentives Policy encouraged the development of 114 new secondary suites in Whitehorse, this includes the River Bend project. This policy also supported Pillar #3 (Home Ownership). (2015/16 and 2017/18)
- YHC converted single-family dwellings to duplexes in Carmacks and Watson Lake, providing additional social housing units. (2015/16)
- Klondike Development Organization was approved for \$400,000 under YHC's Affordable Rental Construction Program and \$500,000 under the Municipal Matching Rental Construction Program for an 8-unit modest, affordable rental housing development in Whitehorse. (September 2016)
- Chief Isaac Incorporated was approved for \$450,000 under YHC's Affordable Rental Construction Program and \$195,000 under the Municipal Matching Rental Construction Program for a 14-unit modest, affordable rental housing development in Dawson City. (May 2016)
- 360° Design Build was approved for \$500,000 under YHC's Affordable Rental Construction Program for a 14-unit modest, affordable rental housing development in Whitehorse. (May 2016)
- YHC began building a \$3m new staff housing residence in Ross River. (April 2016)
- YHC introduced the Municipal Matching Rental Construction Program to incentivize the construction of rental housing. (June 2015)
- Da Daghay Development Corporation was approved for \$500,000 under YHC's Municipal Matching Rental Construction Program and \$275,000 per year (for three years) in rent supplements for a 42-unit affordable housing development in Whitehorse's River Bend neighborhood. (In progress at time of printing)

Improved quality of rental housing

- YHC undertook accessibility upgrades for the exterior of a seniors' housing building in Haines Junction. (2015/16)
- YHC performed water, sewer and mechanical upgrades on social housing buildings in Whitehorse. (2015/16)
- YHC introduced the Rental Quality Enhancement Grant to improve the quality of rental housing stock. (June 2015)

Increased funding for affordable housing in Yukon

- YHC launched Rental Suite Loan program. (April 2016)
- YHC increased the number of rent supplements available in Whitehorse and extended the program to all rural Yukon communities. (June 2015)
- YHC introduced the Rental Housing Allowance for Families Program to help working families with children with the cost of private market rental housing. (June 2015)

Increased knowledge for tenants and landlords

- YHC produced a Tenant Handbook for its social housing tenants, along with two accompanying guides related to maintenance and pest management. (2015/16)
- YHC completed a review of and subsequent amendments to board policies and operational procedures to ensure that all YHC corporate policies are in alignment with the new *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act*. (2015/16)
- CS new *Residential Landlord and Tenant Act* and regulations were proclaimed. (January 2016)
- CS established the Residential Tenancies Office. (January 2016)
- CS launched a public education campaign to educate landlords and tenants about their rights and responsibilities. Activities included public information sessions, a new website and publication of a Residential Landlord and Tenant Handbook. (January 2016)

GOAL: Increase and diversify home ownership options

“This financing system should be the model for the rest of the country. Affordability, as you know, is a big issue right across Canada so hats off to Yukon, hats off to you guys because you’ve really got it all together. It’s been a real pleasure working here.”

— Volunteer John Roe says Habitat for Humanity Yukon can serve as a model for the rest of Canada in providing affordable housing to families

**In the last two years in Yukon,
80 new lots were released to the public:**



50 new lots released in Whitehorse
(11 were for the construction of duplexes)

30 new lots released in rural communities

653 new homes were built



404 new homes built in Whitehorse

249 new homes built in rural communities

Recent successes related to Pillar #2 include:

Increased knowledge for home owners and builders

- YHC refined the Contractors' Breakfast Program to provide training and networking opportunities to local home builders, designers, developers and realtors. (February–April 2016 and 2017)
- YHC concluded the multi-year Seriously Simple carbon monoxide safety campaign. (2015/16)
- YHC modernized the Home Builders' Self Help course to reflect contemporary changes in construction. (2015/16)
- YHC partnered with Health Canada, Yukon's Chief Medical Officer and Yukon Lung Association to facilitate a public awareness campaign about the potential health risks presented by radon in Yukon homes. (November 2015 and 2016)
- YHC partnered with the Yukon Science Institute to present an introductory workshop on building science for homeowners. (April 2016)
- YHC began to offer the Home Ownership Preparedness and Education course. (June 2015)

More opportunities for home ownership

- EMR continued with Phase 3 of the development of the Whistle Bend subdivision, supporting the design and construction of key infrastructure as well as continuing with the overall planning of phases 3D/E through 7. (2015/16 and 2016/17)

- The City of Whitehorse's Development Incentives Policy encouraged the development of multi-unit residential buildings in Whitehorse. This policy also supported Pillar #2 (Rental Housing). (2015/16 and 2016/17)
- EMR delivered 30 new residential lots in rural Yukon through the Rural Land Development unit. (2015/16 and 2016/17)
- Completion of the 5th and Rogers land review process, led by EMR, YHC and the City of Whitehorse. (September 2016)
- YHC redesigned its loans programs with more progressive terms, including opportunities for first time homeowners, individuals who want to build a home, home repair loans and the popular Down Payment Assistance Program. (April 2016)
- Habitat for Humanity completed a 2-unit affordable home ownership project in Whitehorse. (January 2016)
- YHC introduced the Accessibility Enhancement Grant to fund accessibility improvements to homes. This grant also supported Pillar #1 (Housing with Services). (June 2015)
- YHC introduced the Emergency Home Repair Program. (June 2015)

Land registry on First Nation Settlement Land

- EMR's new *Land Titles Act* and regulations were proclaimed; these allow First Nation Settlement Land to be registered in the Land Titles Office and enable the Land Titles Office to keep pace with volume and complexity of modern land dealings in Yukon. (July 2016)

MOVING



FORWARD

2017/18

“The important work of implementing the Housing Action Plan will focus on actions in the Plan that will make a tangible difference in the lives of Yukoners.”

— Honourable Pauline Frost, Yukon government Minister Responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation and Health and Social Services

While the Housing Action Plan identified key goals and actions over a 10-year time period, it is meant to be adaptable and sensitive to local contexts. The Plan is flexible and able to respond to changing circumstances and realities as they emerge.

Supporting the well-being of our community’s most vulnerable citizens is essential. The recent Whitehorse Homeless Point-in-Time count showed that too many neighbours, friends and family are either homeless or precariously housed. The Implementation Committee’s work related to Housing with Services will be anchored by the development of a Housing First approach.

The work of the HAP Implementation Committee will include exploring new and innovative opportunities for how we can continue to efficiently and effectively provide housing, with a focus on interagency partnerships and local economic growth – especially in Yukon’s rural and First Nation communities. This work will also promote housing solutions that allow seniors to remain in their homes for as long as possible.

To support home owners, Yukon government will work alongside communities to ensure there is a steady supply of available, developed land on which to build new housing.

As the federal government unfolds their National Housing Strategy in the years to come, housing priorities for Canada as a whole and the provinces and territories in particular may shift. Throughout this process the implementation of the Housing Action Plan will continue to inform best use of federal funding in the creation of affordable housing, for example through programs like the Municipal Matching Rental Construction Program. Wherever possible, energy efficient repairs, renovation and construction will be emphasized, as will opportunities for design and renovations to allow seniors to age in place.

Continued collaboration and inter-agency cooperation between municipalities, First Nations and community partners will ensure the future success of the HAP. Using the HAP to further refine and address housing gaps and building on successful initiatives guided by the Plan will provide the necessary momentum and guidance to provide adequate, affordable and accessible housing for all Yukoners in need.

The Implementation Committee will continue to revisit goals and objectives as housing challenges and opportunities present themselves.







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