

FOR RELEASE
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A Housing First building for downtown Whitehorse to be designed this year

The Government of Yukon will begin the design of a multi-unit building this year to address the needs of homeless individuals in Whitehorse.

The building will provide barrier-free housing to the homeless as quickly as possible. It will offer affordable, permanent housing to those who require ongoing support and care in addition to a place to live – which has been an identified gap in Yukon.

The Yukon Housing Corporation will design and build the project, with input from the Department of Health and Social Services and other key partners. It represents an important step towards a community-based solution to address the needs of the homeless in Whitehorse.

Quotes

"This project will offer much-needed access to housing for individuals who are currently homeless or in very vulnerable situations. The Yukon Housing Corporation and the Department of the Health and Social Services will work collaboratively on this project, which will provide these Yukoners with a permanent home as they get the additional support they need."

–Minister of Health and Social Services and Minister Responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation Pauline Frost

Quick facts

- This project meets a clearly identified gap in affordable housing in Whitehorse, for those individuals who require ongoing support and care in addition to secure housing. It will be located at 5th Avenue and Wood Street.
- This project also addresses two priorities of the Safe at Home Community-Based Action Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness in Whitehorse, which are to provide access to housing and programs and services within a system of care, including providing low-barrier housing options, and to prevent homelessness
- Government of Yukon Department of Health and Social Services will develop the Housing First approach for the building, based on collaboration with First Nation governments, municipal governments and other stakeholder organizations.
- The Government of Yukon recognizes Housing First as both a philosophy for housing provision and a clearly defined program model – and will continue to use the core principles of Housing First to guide its approach.

Learn more:

Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness
Housing Action Plan for Yukon
Safe at Home Community-Based Action Plan

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