



FOR RELEASE
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New life for old facility expands services for individuals with mental health challenges

WHITEHORSE—Retrofits to an old Yukon Housing building will result in five transitional living suites for individuals with complex mental health issues, Minister of Health and Social Services Mike Nixon announced today.

"These new suites, which will be ready by the end of the summer, will provide a safe and supportive environment for citizens with diagnosed mental health challenges," Nixon said. "This is a new concept for Yukon where this type of client can improve their well-being and develop their independent-living skills."

Health and Social Services is currently seeking proposals from non-governmental organizations to provide residential support workers. The department will oversee the therapeutic component and general treatment of all residents and will collaborate with the NGO to provide the best possible support for clients.

Five to eight clients will be resident at any one time. The facility will provide a place to stabilize while receiving support through treatment and counselling. Skill development will include cooking, finances, cleaning, and reading, which will help enable clients to transition into longer-term housing.

"Our organization's focus is to promote the positive mental health of Yukoners. We applaud any initiatives that support people with mental illness," Mental Health Association Yukon chair Ray Wells said. "This investment will provide safe housing and a supportive environment for Yukoners who are in need."

The transitional living facility is part of the department's long-term plan for mental health and addictions services.

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