

FOR RELEASE
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Front Street Seniors' Residence officially opened

WHITEHORSE—The Yukon Housing Corporation's newest seniors' residence was officially opened today by Premier Darrell Pasloski, Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation Stacey Hassard and Yukon Housing Corporation Board chair Janet Moodie.

"I am proud to officially open another modern, accessible and affordable seniors' housing residence," Pasloski said. "In 2011, we committed to Yukoners that this government would ensure more housing options for seniors. This is the third such facility we have opened in the past three years."

The completion of the new 48-unit Front Street residence creates a total of 88 new affordable housing units for independently living seniors in Whitehorse and Mayo since 2014. The 34-unit Alexander Street residence was officially opened in November 2014 and a six-unit residence in Mayo was opened in August 2015.

All three facilities were built to high energy-efficiency standards. Electric heating, triple-paned windows, heat recovery ventilators, R-40 walls and R-60 ceilings will result in reduced carbon emissions and lower heating costs.

The three housing complexes were designed with direction from the Accessibility Advisory Committee. The committee comprises representatives from Challenge-Disability Resource Group, Yukon Council on Aging, seniors' groups, tenants and Government of Yukon staff. The committee advises on new building designs and layouts so that residences include barrier-free and fully accessible design elements, including wheelchair accessible bathrooms and easy-to-use kitchen appliances.

"We are pleased to offer quality independent-living options for fixed-income seniors through the Yukon Housing Corporation's social housing program," Hassard said. "We are hearing very positive feedback about how residents' quality of life is improved with our newest buildings' design, location and accessibility features."

The corporation offers affordable social housing for low or fixed-income Yukoners in every community. The addition of the 48-unit Front Street residence brings the total number of Yukon Housing Corporation social housing units to 706.

"A key goal of the housing corporation's board is to increase the availability of affordable accommodation for individuals and families in need," Moodie said. "I believe we are making good progress on that strategic goal."

Learn more: www.housing.yk.ca or call 867-667-5759.

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See backgrounder.

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Backgrounder

Yukon government's investment in the Front Street seniors social housing building serves to cost-match the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) ongoing investment of \$7.875 million in affordable housing in Yukon under the 2014-2019 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation/Yukon Agreement for Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH). Yukon Housing Corporation wishes to acknowledge CMHC for its important contributions toward affordable housing in Yukon under the IAH.

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