

Question 1. There is a need in Yukon for diverse, affordable, and gender-responsive housing and shelter options for women and children fleeing violence. What specific actions will your party take to address this issue?

Yukon Liberal Party Response:

The Yukon Liberal Party recognizes the importance of supportive housing, particularly focused on women and children. We have been strong supporters of the important work to establish CYFN's Family Preservation and Wellness Centre through providing the land at the cost of \$1. Through the Yukon Housing Corporation, we also provided funding to this project through the Housing Initiatives Fund and the Municipal Matching Rental Construction Program. The Yukon Liberal government has made major investments in gender-responsive, affordable, and diverse housing over the last nine years to assist women and children escaping violence. This includes signing a \$16.4-million bilateral agreement under the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence, establishing the gender-based violence stream of the Canada-Yukon Housing Benefit, collaborating with the Council of Yukon First Nations on new transitional housing and a 32-bed Indigenous women and children's shelter, and providing funding for improvements to Kaushee's Place and other facilities. Additionally, we have created a draft Housing Options and Supports Action Plan, enhanced access to rent assistance, and increased the scope of supportive housing programs. In order to carry on this work, a re-elected Liberal government will expand transitional and second stage housing, assist Indigenous-led shelters throughout the Yukon, and make sure that all women and children in need have access to safe, culturally relevant wrap-around resources. We are particularly proud of the 18 new housing units in Whitehorse's growing Whistle Bend neighbourhood will offer safe, stable, second-stage housing for women and children transitioning from emergency or temporary accommodations under an agreement made in 2025. Residents may stay for up to 24 months and will have access to supports and services as part of Council of Yukon First Nations' Family Preservation Services. We will continue to look for opportunities to support future initiatives in a similar way.

Yukon New Democratic Party Response:

We recognize that women and children fleeing violence face intersecting barriers such as housing instability, high cost of living, limited access to healthcare, and under-resourced shelter systems. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated action across sectors and investing in infrastructure and programming supports for women and children. The Yukon NDP is committed to the following:

- Strengthening shelter supports by implementing recommendations from the recent shelter review and working with frontline organizations to expand safe, culturally responsive housing options.
- Supporting community-led housing initiatives that reflect the lived experiences of women and gender-diverse people, especially in rural and remote areas.
- Ensuring reproductive health services like the Opal Clinic and Yukon Sexual Health Clinic are properly resourced, so individuals can access confidential, trauma-informed care.
- Improving access to healthcare in rural communities by preventing service closures and investing in frontline workers' solutions.
- Implementing a Universal Nutrition program in all Yukon schools, ensuring no child has to try to learn while hungry.
- Resourcing the Supervised Consumption Site to operate seven days a week, supporting individuals navigating substance use and unsafe conditions.

These actions are part of a broader commitment to making life more affordable and improving healthcare access, both of which are critical to reducing violence and supporting long-term safety and stability

Yukon Party Response:

The Yukon Party would like to recognize the community organizations who work to assist victims of violence with not only housing and immediate needs, but ongoing supports and services as well. If we are successful in forming government, we will work with those organizations to identify the needs within the community and look to address the areas which government may be currently falling short in terms of support. We look forward to partnering with community organizations to help identify future options for housing and shelter.