

**Question 6:**

Youth in Yukon face barriers to accessing mental health supports, affordable housing and transportation. How will your party address these gaps?

**Yukon Liberal Party Response:**

We see supporting youth as a critical piece in creating wellness in the territory. When we create upstream support systems, it is how we ensure long-term wellness. We will amend the Yukon Mental Health Act to ensure that the territory has a modern mental health support system. We will examine barriers to youth in accessing both sport and arts, which are key pieces in maintaining a healthy supportive childhood. We will also continue to ensure that free mental health supports are available to Yukoners by supporting the work of the Canadian Mental Health Association - Yukon. We are also very focused on increasing access to affordable housing across the territory, particularly through increasing supports to Yukon's not for profit building industry, including the Northern Community Land Trust and Habitat for Humanity.

**Yukon New Democratic Party Response:**

The Yukon NDP will increase the age for the youth mental health support mandate to 24 years old, staff up youth centres, and build new recreation opportunities in communities by partnering with local and First Nations governments. Best practices include having peer support and being able to access treatment or services in a person's home community where their support networks are strongest. The Yukon NDP will push the federal government to extend the Youth Mental Health Fund to the Yukon. Partnering with federal and

municipal governments is necessary to ensure continuity of funding and services, and we will continue to work for closer partnerships. We will also ensure that free transit passes continue to be available, extending the program that the Yukon NDP made the Liberals create. We will be working with First Nations governments, their development corporations, local organizations, and businesses to connect communities with affordable and reliable transit. Finally, we will be working extensively with local organizations, communities, and First Nations governments to develop housing solutions in communities, including options and safe spaces for youth.

**Yukon Party Response:**

The Yukon Party commits to working with the Youth Directorate and community youth organizations to identify where such gaps may exist, and to finding solutions to address

them. There are many incredible organizations who work with youth, and we are committed to work alongside them to reduce barriers that affect them.