



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

## GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

**Monday, March 13, 2023 at 12:05 p.m.**

Report of a meeting held on Monday, March 13, 2023 at 12:05 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber.  
The following Committee members were in attendance:

Chair: Mayor R. Alty,  
Councillor S. Arden-Smith,  
Councillor G. Cochrane,  
Councillor R. Fequet,  
Councillor C. McGurk,  
Councillor T. McLennan,  
Councillor S. Payne, and  
Councillor R. Warburton.

The following members of Administration staff were in attendance:

S. Bassi-Kellett,  
C. Caljouw,  
C. MacLean,  
W. Newton,  
K. Thistle,  
C. White,  
G. White,  
S. Woodward, and  
S. Jovic.

---

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.	(For Information Only) Mayor Alty read the Opening Statement.
2.	(For Information Only) There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.
3.	(For Information Only) Committee read a memorandum regarding whether to approve the reallocation of a portion of 2022-23 Reaching Home remaining funding for the 2022/2023 fiscal year.



Committee noted that on February 6, 2023, Council approved the recommendation from the City of Yellowknife Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (CAB) to allocate the remaining Reaching Home 2022-23 funding of \$1,468,864.34 to (a) Transition of Aspen Apartments into non-market housing (for capital and O&M costs): \$1,318,864.34; and (b) Salvation Army's Bailey House in alignment with Reaching Home Directives: \$150,000.00.

On March 6, 2023, Housing NWT (HNWT) confirmed to the City that it had adequate funds from other sources to be able to renovate Aspen Apartments into non-market housing. HNWT has suggested alternate use for the \$1.3M which would meet both Reaching Home requirements as well as community needs within Yellowknife.

HNWT is proposing to use the \$1.3M transfer through the City of Yellowknife from the Reaching Home funding to support GNWT's implementation of the Transitional Housing for Addictions Recovery Program (THARP) in Yellowknife. HNWT reviewed the THARP program requirements with the Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) and determined that a mixed-occupancy model for Aspen Apartments, which included both transitional housing for clients recovering from addictions and general public housing, was an incongruous use. To more effectively support addictions recovery, the \$1.3M would be used by HNWT to develop an asset to support the THARP program – either a retrofit of an existing 6-plex or a new build 6 bedroom facility with common living spaces.

Council policy, resolution or goal include:

Goal #3:	Ensuring a high quality of life for all, including future generations.
Objective 3.3	Work with partners to address pressing social issues.
Action 3.3.2	Focus on bringing partners and funding to support the implementation of the City's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.

#### Council Motion #0016-23

That Council approve the recommendation from the City of Yellowknife Community Advisory Board on Homelessness (CAB) to allocate the remaining \$1,468,864.34 of 2022-2023 Reaching Home - Canada's Strategy to End Homelessness funding as follows:

1. Transition of Aspen Apartments into non-market housing (for capital and O&M costs): \$1,318,864.34; and
2. Salvation Army's Bailey House in alignment with Reaching Home Directives: \$150,000.00.

Applicable legislation, by-laws, studies, plans:

Everyone is Home – Yellowknife's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.

#### Existing Programs/Services

CAB has previously allocated \$1,219,953 of the 2022/2023 funding as follows:

- Housing First for Youth \$175,000 – Homebase Yellowknife;



- Housing First for Families \$376,000 – YWCA;
- Housing First for Adults \$350,953 – Yellowknife Women’s Society;
- Prevention and Shelter Diversion \$219,000 – Homebase Yellowknife; and
- Indigenous Case Management \$ 99,000 – Arctic Indigenous Wellness foundation.

As well, CAB determined, and Council subsequently approved, the allocation of \$2,064,562 in 2023-24 Reaching Home - Canada’s Strategy to End Homelessness funding as outlined below.

1. Housing First for Youth: \$393,893;
2. Housing First for Families: \$594,893;
3. Housing First for Adults: \$569,846;
4. Prevention & Shelter Diversion – Youth: \$100,000;
5. Prevention & Shelter Diversion – Adults: \$100,000;
6. Prevention & Shelter Diversion – Families: \$100,000;
7. Prevention & Shelter Diversion – Seniors: \$100,000; and
8. Indigenous Case Management: \$ 105,930.

There remains \$404,854 in 2023-24 Reaching Home funding to be allocated by CAB and approved by Council.

The reallocation of funds previously identified for the renovation of Aspen Apartments to a second project, given HNWT’s confirmation of adequate funds to complete Aspen, results in a broader impact of the Reaching Home 2022-23 funding allocation. This funding would now support not one but two projects which will expand the both the non-market housing stock and the social/transitional housing stock in Yellowknife for a broader client base.

Committee recommended that Council reallocate \$1,318,864.34 of the 2022-2023 Reaching Home - Canada’s Strategy to End Homelessness funding to the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) for permanent supportive housing and/or transitional housing or other eligible capital activity in Yellowknife.

In response to questions from Council, Administration undertook to provide an update on the permanent supportive housing and/or transitional housing project and on a 5-year Reaching Home – Canada’s Strategy to End Homelessness funding agreement.

Committee noted that this matter will be discussed at that evening’s Council Meeting.

4. The meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.