

The Downtown Whitehorse safety response action plan is a roadmap aimed at enhancing the safety, health and overall wellbeing of downtown Whitehorse. It is a living document, focused on immediate and long-term solutions, such as increasing housing security, expanding support services and improving public safety measures. The plan involves collaboration with community partners, Yukon First Nations and local businesses to address challenges related to homelessness, addiction and community safety, ensuring a coordinated and sustainable approach to create a vibrant, inclusive and safe downtown for all.

Completed

- ✓ Hired private **security services** to support local businesses in proximity to Alexander Street (November 2023)
- ✓ Operationalized a Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) led **Mobile Outreach Initiative** to provide after-hours and weekend supports (December 2023)
- ✓ Extended funding to Safe at Home as part of the **Winter Housing Strategy** to ensure safe and secure housing options (November 2023)
- ✓ Allocated \$3M for **on-the-land treatment funding** provided through Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy (November 2023)
- ✓ **Library Outreach Worker** identified and support provided to library for program launch in Winter 2024 (December 2023)
- ✓ IRP (inspire.reconciliation.potential) Consulting led **community engagement and education**, engaging downtown residents and businesses, NGOs, Yukon First Nations and people with lived experience (November 2023)
- ✓ Signed a letter of intent with Yukon First Nations and the Government of Canada to **build a Yukon First Nations healing centre**
- ✓ Launched **communications and education** campaigns (December 2023)

Medium term (1 to 12 months)

- ❑ Partner with Yukon organizations such as Safe at Home, Council of Yukon First Nations, Kwanlin Dun First Nation and others to decentralize services in downtown and:
 - operationalize additional medium and high barrier locations where people can access **food services**
 - explore alternate locations for additional **culturally safe programming**.
- ❑ Secure options for **additional supportive and emergency housing** options
- ❑ Operationalize a **Managed Alcohol** residential program to support, stabilize and reduce harms associated with chronic alcohol use disorder.
- ❑ Improve safety on Alexander Street by:
 - applying **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design** principles.
 - explore options for **management of 408 Alexander St.** to address safety concerns.
- ❑ Extend hours at the **Supervised Consumption Site**
- ❑ **Continue engaging** downtown residents and businesses, NGOs, Yukon First Nations and people with lived experience
- ❑ Continue to work with partners to **discuss appropriate levels of accessibility** when it comes to emergency services and our approach to meeting the needs of the community, barriers to accessibility, and policy standards
- ❑ Initiate new Canada Yukon Housing Benefit **rent subsidy for people fleeing gender-based violence**.
- ❑ Work with the City of Whitehorse to:
 - explore developing a **community safety and wellbeing plan** for the City of Whitehorse, focusing on the downtown.
 - explore adding **accessible community washroom facilities**.
 - explore options around the **beautification of Alexander Street**.
- ❑ Identify interest in hosting a community **Restorative Justice Circle** to promote cross-learning and healing.
- ❑ Continue engagement with downtown residents and businesses, NGOs, First Nations and people with lived experience.
- ❑ Reconvene a community conversation on downtown safety in spring 2024 to update on action, facilitated by IRP.
- ❑ Yukon Housing Corporation to lead the development of a **Rapid Response to Homelessness** by:
 - engaging with partners to develop a **multi-pronged strategy** based on collective understanding of needs.
 - continuing to implement **integrated housing with supports** in partnership with HSS.
 - securing options for additional **supportive and emergency housing**.

Long term (1 year +)

- ❑ **Review accessibility policies for emergency housing facilities** and diversify the options that exist to meet support needs.
- ❑ Finalize Yukon's rapid response to homelessness strategy.
- ❑ Work with the private sector partners to **bring more affordable housing online** quickly.
- ❑ **Build more Yukon Housing Corporation community housing units** to alleviate YHC waitlist and By-Name List pressures.