

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

- ✓ Allocated \$3M for **on-the-land treatment funding** provided through Substance Use Health Emergency Strategy (November 2023)
- ✓ Extended funding to Safe at Home as part of the **Winter Housing Strategy** (November 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)
- ✓ Hired private **security services** to support local businesses in proximity to Alexander Street (November 2023 - Present)
- ✓ Operationalized a Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) led **Mobile Outreach Initiative** to provide after-hours and weekend supports (December 2023)
- ✓ Announced partnership with Safe at Home Society to **develop The Hearth – Permanent Supportive Housing** which will provide 67 self-contained affordable housing (February 2024)
- ✓ Extended hours at the **Supervised Consumption Site** (February 2024)
- ✓ Developed a **Community Warming/Drop-in Space pilot project** at the Jim Smith Building (March to May 2024)
- ✓ **Library Outreach Worker** placed at the library (April 2024)
- ✓ Partnered with Blood Ties to extend and enhance their **Healthy Meals program** that will provide lunch and dinner services 7 days per week (June 2024)
- ✓ Signed a letter of intent with Yukon First Nations and the Government of Canada to **build a Yukon First Nations healing centre**

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**.
- ❑ 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.
- ❑ **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.
- ❑ Secure options for **additional supportive and emergency housing** options

Long term (1 year +)

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