

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“MOU”) made as of May 24, 2022

BETWEEN:

YUKON HOUSING CORPORATION (YHC)

PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6 (Y-1)

410 Jarvis Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2H5

(the “Corporation”)

AND

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES (HSS)

PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6 (H-1)

1 Hospital Road, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 3H7

(the “Department”)

WHEREAS:

- A. The parties are accountable for effective direction, coordination and cooperation to support Yukoners with the greatest housing needs.
- B. The parties enter into this MOU for the purpose of setting out their respective and joint objectives, interests and expectations in providing Yukoners who have the greatest supportive housing needs with:
 - a. Adequate, affordable and suitable housing within the parameters of the Yukon’s legislative and policy environment;
 - b. Access to supportive services and housing which meets the needs of vulnerable Yukoners who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- C. Both parties will work together and with their respective and mutual housing and housing with services’ partners collaboratively to meet the needs of Yukoners who have the greatest housing needs.

The Yukon Housing Corporation (YHC) and the Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) and, hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”:

Recognize the imbalance in demand for housing and supportive housing/housing with services to the supply of housing across the housing continuum, the Parties face an urgent need to more effectively address housing issues that effect the health and well-being of lower income and/or unstable income households and vulnerable Yukoners;

Recognize that access to housing and supportive housing/housing with services is critical to the health and wellbeing of Yukoners, their families and communities; addressing needs along the housing continuum and applying collaborative policy and operational changes is a shared responsibility; providing the housing required for vulnerable people will require significant systemic changes;

Note the joint actions to address these challenges must be developed to directly address Yukon housing demographic pressures, gaps and health and social needs. These collective actions require a common understanding of these challenges between the parties;

Note that access to affordable, adequate, suitable and sustainable housing and supportive housing/housing with services must be available to all Yukoners in need and this principle should form the basis of our collective housing with services policy and program approach;

Affirm their shared commitment to achieve effective cooperation in facilitating access to adequate and affordable housing and supportive housing/housing with services that meets the evolving needs of Yukoners as they move along the housing continuum;

Note that the agreement between the Parties is a collaborative partnership arrangement intended to:

- a. result in a long-term action and an implementation plan focused on Yukoners with the greatest need for housing and supportive housing/housing with services; and
- b. result in positive outcomes for clients being served;

Commit to enhance the working relationship between the Parties and social and housing partners – in particular housing with services’ providers, while respecting the Parties’ respective responsibilities and financial and budgetary parameters.

NOW THEREFORE this MOU confirms the parties’ intentions and understandings about the following matters:

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the “MOU” is to create a framework for cooperation on affordable housing and housing with services in the Yukon, between the Parties, that provides vulnerable Yukoners with adequate, suitable and affordable housing.

2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 Yukon Housing Corporation

To provide non-market housing options to address gaps in housing. Yukon Housing Corporation provides rental housing at below-market rents to applicants (individuals or households) who qualify for housing and rent supplement units.

2.2 Health and Social Services

To provide supports, services and programs that improve the well-being and quality of life for Yukoners, throughout their lives, including persons with disabilities, persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, persons in financial need, and adults with vulnerabilities.

To provide, either directly or through a third party service delivery, health and social services programs to support Yukoners in need of emergency shelters, transitional housing and/or supportive housing.

2.3 Joint role and responsibilities

- a) Co-operate with a view to facilitate Yukoners’ access to Government of Yukon housing initiatives that are clearly described and evolve with client needs.
- b) To be mutually supportive of each other - the cooperation will encompass any issue relating to affordable housing and supportive housing/housing with services in the Yukon.
- c) Share a commitment to keep Yukoners and housing partners informed about the current state of affordable housing, supportive housing with services and actions taken to end and prevent homelessness in the Yukon.

3. COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES

3.1 This MOU is intended to set out the process for the parties to determine the scope and implementation of respective and mutual activities for the purpose of collaboratively working together to respond to the Office of the Auditor General's Independent Audit on Yukon Housing and to the Yukon public.

3.2 As an example of the scope of cooperative activities, the Parties will:

- a) Share knowledge and exchange information.
- b) Determine best mechanisms for engagement with partners to better understand the needs of clients for supportive housing/housing with services.
- c) Identify and commit to short and long-term priorities¹ and actions.
- d) Determine a coordinated approach to information management, data sharing and systems.
- e) Design and implement joint evaluation and performance measurement to better understand and track progress.
- f) Report and communicate on progress and results.
- g) Develop an actionable implementation plan through the Joint YHC-HSS Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) Steering Committee on Housing and implement with support from working groups, including the necessary amendments to policies and programs.
- h) Work with housing partners to understand and facilitate sharing of knowledge regarding the needs of vulnerable Yukoners and how they can work with the Yukon Government to help meet the needs of vulnerable Yukoners.

a) ¹ Short and long-term housing priorities will include Government of Yukon priorities identified through approved strategic and action plans, the OAG on Yukon Housing Report recommendations include those contained in Putting People First.

4. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

YHC-HSS ADM Steering Committee on Housing

Responsibility for the governance of the MOU will be overseen by the YHC-HSS ADM Steering Committee on Housing. It will be co-chaired by an identified Vice President and Assistant Deputy Minister with decisions taken by consensus.

The Committee will take a leadership role in delivering on the commitments of this MOU. The Committee will revise and finalize its Terms of Reference to reflect its responsibility to:

- deliver on the commitments of this MOU;
- develop the implementation plan with timelines;
- coordinate policy and program approach;
- be accountable for its implementation; and
- report to the Deputy Ministers of HSS, and President of YHC Committee.

The Committee will be supported by sub-committees, housing partner committee tables (i.e., Housing Action Plan for Yukon Implementation Committee, Community Advisory Board for Reaching Home, etc.) or working groups to discuss, review and innovate policy and operational implementation and monitor impacts.

5. CONCLUDING TERMS

- a) Given that housing for vulnerable Yukoners is a responsibility shared by the Parties, this MOU is expected to commence upon signature by both Parties.
- b) The Parties may modify this MOU upon their mutual consent in writing.

Signed in duplicate at Whitehorse this 24th day of May, 2022.



Honourable Ranj Pillai

Minister responsible for the
Yukon Housing Corporation



Honourable Tracy-Anne McPhee

Minister of Health & Social
Services