



YWCA Yellowknife confounded by territorial government priorities which leave women unsafe in communities without police

Yellowknife, 28 October 2014: YWCA Yellowknife is confounded by the Justice Minister’s confirmation that there is no money – and no plan – to build RCMP detachments in Gameti and Wrigley. These detachments have been promised for five years - and the communities are going to have to wait at least five more for them since the buildings are not in the government’s current capital plan.

“There are so few resources in these communities now to keep women safe from family violence,” says YWCA Yellowknife executive director, Lyda Fuller. “There is real potential for danger and police help may be hours away,” she added. Statistics Canada calculated in 2011 that the family violence rate in the NWT is NINE times the national average.

Little has changed since Alice Black was murdered in Gameti in 2009. “I believe that having police there would have made a difference for Alice. And the fact is, this kind of violence could happen again,” says Fuller. Four women were murdered in the NWT between December 2012 and December 2013 in domestic violence circumstances.

“This is a question about priorities. The government has money in its capital plan for economic development, but not to build these police detachments. The priority is to bring new people to the territory without ensuring the safety of the people who live here now,” Fuller says.

YWCA Yellowknife ran a pilot program where women in communities without police came together to provide one another with support. That program was discontinued 18 months ago because funding from government ended. “They had to go back to nothing again at a time when women’s safety is still a huge issue,” Fuller says. “I just hope we planted some seeds that continue to grow.”

For more information, contact Lyda Fuller at lyda@ywcanwt.ca or at 920-2777 x 310.

About YWCA Yellowknife: The mandate of YWCA Yellowknife is to build safe and equitable communities where women and families realize their full potential. YWCA Yellowknife fulfills its mission by operating the 12-bed Alison McAteer House family violence shelter, along with a 24-hour territory-wide crisis line and the eight-bed Sutherland House family violence shelter in Fort Smith. YWCA Yellowknife recently opened Lynn’s Place, an 18-unit building that provides longer-term housing for women needing safety. YWCA Yellowknife also runs a 33-unit family housing program at Rockhill, after school programs in every Yellowknife school, the popular GirlSpace empowerment program, and a resilience program for children who have experienced violence.