



YWCA Yellowknife has a solid record of providing transitional housing for women and families

Yellowknife, 10 March 2015: YWCA Yellowknife staff seldom ask residents to leave its transitional housing programs, and when they do, it's a last resort. Two women have been asked to leave the new Lynn's Place women's housing program that opened last fall. At the family housing program at Rockhill, a handful of families have been asked to leave of the one thousand plus who have lived in the building since the YWCA took it over in 1997.

Decisions to invite women to live at Lynn's Place – and to ask them to leave – are made by a placement committee. The committee is comprised of YWCA Yellowknife staff and other service providers. “We took the chance that we could help a couple of people who hadn't done well elsewhere, and that gamble didn't pay off. We are a housing agency; the last thing we want to do is to make people homeless,” says Lyda Fuller, executive director of YWCA Yellowknife.

“At both Rockhill and Lynn's Place, we work with tenants to address the issues that are destabilizing them, and offer opportunities to develop good tenancy records so they can move into permanent housing. This kind of support is the purpose of transitional housing, and what makes us different from a market rental landlord,” she says.

The Residential Tenancies Act doesn't apply to transitional housing, but even if it did the residents would still have been asked to leave. “That's because non-payment of rent and breaching your neighbors' quiet enjoyment of their homes are both grounds for eviction,” says Fuller.

“Unlike an eviction under the Residential Tenancies Act, when we ask people to leave there is no record of them being evicted to prevent them from finding housing elsewhere,” says Fuller.

YWCA Yellowknife did not lobby for the changes to the Residential Tenancies Act now under review by the Legislative Assembly. It is prepared to comply with the legislation in place.

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. -30-