



NEWS RELEASE

YWCA Yellowknife releases comprehensive NWT resource guide for women experiencing family violence

(Yellowknife: April 8, 2015) YWCA Yellowknife is responding to some of the highest rates of family violence in Canada by releasing a new book called Legal Pathways – Spousal Violence in the NWT: A Resource for Women. Author Lani Cooke reviews the laws in place to protect women and children from family violence. The book also contains information about the options women have to move out of family violence. Copies of the book will be available at the news conference.

“Women have legal options like emergency protection orders that will keep the abuser out of the home for up to 90 days, as well as long-term and permanent ways to dealing with family violence,” says Cooke.

Legal Pathways contains chapters on child protection, family law, criminal justice, housing and income support issues as well as a complete listing of supports. Each chapter has been reviewed by the relevant service providers to ensure information is accurate and timely.

“Our hope is to get Legal Pathways into as many hands as possible as well as having it available online,” says Cooke. For more information, go to <http://www.ywcanwt.ca/family-violence/getting-help-now>

“Women who experience family violence are not alone. There is help available from family violence shelters like our Alison McAteer House in Yellowknife and Sutherland House in Fort Smith, along with the RCMP, victim service workers, lawyers, friends and advocates,” says YWCA Yellowknife executive director Lyda Fuller. “Family violence is not normal.”

Funding for Legal Pathways was provided by the NWT Law Foundation and the Victims Assistance Fund.

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. The YWCA Yellowknife website is www.ywcanwt.ca, on Facebook at /ywcayellowknife and on Twitter @YWCAYK. -30-*