



YWCA Yellowknife begins operating Sutherland House family violence shelter today

Yellowknife: October 1, 2014: YWCA Yellowknife is returning to Fort Smith to operate the Sutherland House family violence shelter, beginning today. The Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority selected YWCA Yellowknife as the shelter operator last month after an open call for proposals.

“This change will be seamless for the clients, they won’t notice any difference,” says YWCA Yellowknife executive director Lyda Fuller. The eight-bed shelter provides 24/7 service to women and women with children fleeing family violence.

There will be no changes in staffing. All current workers accepted positions with YWCA Yellowknife. “We are able to provide staff the stability of permanent employment instead of the casual term positions they worked with at the Authority,” Fuller says.

YWCA Yellowknife plays an active role in both the NWT and Canadian Shelter Networks. “Sutherland House will now have access to a broader range of support and professional development by coming under the YWCA umbrella,” says Fuller.

Sutherland House is the oldest of five family violence shelters in the NWT. Sister Agnes Sutherland started it more than 30 years ago. YWCA Yellowknife operated Sutherland House from 2005 to 2008 at the invitation of the Health Authority but left when the agency was unable to find a supervisor with the Master’s of Social Work the Authority required. This requirement has since been dropped.

For more information or an interview, contact Lyda Fuller, Executive Director of YWCA Yellowknife at lyda@ywcanwt.ca or at 920-2777 x 310.

About YWCA Yellowknife: YWCA Yellowknife is a leader in providing safe housing for women. It operates the 12-bed Alison McAteer House family violence shelter, along with a 24-hour crisis line available to the whole territory. 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. YWCA Yellowknife, founded in 1966, has 87 full-time, part-time and casual staff. For more information, see our website at www.ywcanwt.ca, follow us on Facebook at YWCA Yellowknife and on Twitter at @YWCAYK.