

Arnica Project - Candidate Question from the Yellowknife Women's Society

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Bree Denning
<executivedirector@ykws.ca>

10:49 AM (4 hours ago)

to Bree

Dear NWT MLA Candidates,

Many of the NWT's homeless, from communities across the north, are living in Yellowknife. In May 2019 the Yellowknife Women's Society's announced that it had the option to buy the Arnica Inn and convert it to badly needed supportive housing for forty women and men that are experiencing homelessness.

Yellowknife City Council moved quickly in approving the conditional use. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation is processing an application for funding for 75% of the \$3,000,000 capital cost. The seller is looking for a timely decision and the homeless Northerners remain in limbo as another winter approaches.

The remaining 25% was sought from the GNWT in April 2019. The GNWT responded that they would not commit funding to move this extremely cost effective and timely project forward.

The Arnica Supportive Housing Project would include employable skills development and life skills as part of its programing enabling its clients to reintegrate into the community, and eventually return to their home community if that is their goal. Affordable rent would be charged, geared to the tenant's income, and used to support the sustainability of the program.

When elected will you address homelessness by **actively supporting a meaningful and timely financial contribution from the GNWT to the Arnica project?**

Many thanks, and best of luck with your campaigns.

Sincerely,

Bree Denning

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Response from Kevin O'Reilly, MLA Candidate for Frame Lake

Housing First has played an important part of our efforts to help the homeless population of Yellowknife. However, there have been problems with dealing with a landlord who owns a lot of the rental property and the number of people requiring assistance is increasing. The Federal government is offering 75% of the cost for purchasing and renovating the Arnica Inn. I

