

405 Alexander

Report to the Community

SPRING UPDATE

Welcome to the second edition of the 405 Alexander Report to the Community! The months since we assumed operation of the program, back in October 2022, have flown by. We've been excited to build on the work of the Yukon Government through the application of our own expertise and the valuable contributions of our community partners.

Thanks to the Council of Yukon First Nations, we've continued to provide Indigenous service users with access to cultural support and programming, through 405 Alexander's full-time Cultural Support Worker.

"We know that operating 405 Alexander is a tremendous responsibility and privilege."

This position has been met with a very positive response from service users. Cultural programming has included pancake breakfasts with our permanent housing units, beaded feather making and mini button blanket making workshops, and more.

We've also partnered with several community organizations – such as BloodTies – on a series of events – like our Naloxone Training BBQ – and have created opportunities to deepen our staff's knowledge and skills, through training from Car 867, the Yukon Status of Women's Council, and others.

These collaborations have brought untold value to the experiences of those accessing 405 Alexander, and we are eager to continue exploring ways to bring a more fulsome collection of accessible supports and services to all who walk through our doors.

"[We] have created opportunities to deepen our staff's knowledge and skills"

We know that operating 405 Alexander is a tremendous responsibility and privilege. It offers a vital – and for many, a first – step on the road to wellbeing. Recognizing that it is not, and cannot, be the only step when it comes to addressing community challenges, Connective is also exploring models of community engagement with our partners in the Yukon Government and CYFN. Our hope is to provide clarity about the purpose and programs of 405 Alexander, so that people can better understand the place it occupies in the larger, more complex social puzzle.

In conjunction with these engagement initiatives, we will also be renaming the program in the coming months, to better reflect its position as far more than just an "emergency shelter" service.

405 Alexander offers safe overnight accommodation for people experiencing homelessness (58 shelter beds), as well as permanent housing and support for 20 individuals.

Services Include: three daily meals; access to an outreach worker, mental health services, and external referrals; shower and laundry facilities; clothing, personal care items, and harm reduction supplies; fully trained on-site EMS workers; a twice-weekly referral care clinic; and more. We are also actively working on the implementation of a Managed Alcohol Program.

7,967 Total Stays

48,623 Meals Served

**SINCE CONNECTIVE'S
TRANSITION**

5,095 Harm Reduction
Supplies Distributed

(everything from lip balm to condoms
and naloxone kits).

'I JUST LOVE IT HERE'

Spotlight On: Kory | Housing Support Worker

Kory worked at 405 Alexander before Connective assumed operation, and has remained through our transition. He never planned to work in social services, but after recommendations from friends and an initial trial run, he realized he was a perfect fit.

"It's taken 45 years and a lot of different jobs in a lot of different areas. But yeah, I, I smile when I come to work and I'm smiling when I leave...I love it so much."

Kory's own history has allowed him to build meaningful connections with those accessing the program. "I share some history of homelessness and addiction issues, so it's a very relatable experience." Building these relationships with service users, and seeing its impact on them, is a bright spot in Kory's role at 405 Alexander.

"The absolute joy that some of the clients have when I come to work... they're like, 'Oh, you're here – are you here all night? That's great.' And that just warms my heart, you know."

Kory is excited for the changes that have, and are still, to come. "Through Connective, it's so wonderful to see the things that I wanted to see when I came in initially – a lot of case management, and sort of more singular work with people. Making it easier for them to transition...on to bigger and better things."



ABOUT CONNECTIVE

Connective is a community-based social services non-profit working across BC and the Yukon to create safe, healthy, and inclusive communities for all.

Just recently, we were excited to announce our fifth program in Whitehorse – a women's focused supervised housing and reintegration program. Filling a 20-year service gap in the territory, this program will give women on conditional release from institutions the opportunity to return home in a way that is safe and supported, as they reintegrate into the community.

WHO TO CALL, WHEN TO CALL



- Call 911 if you see a crime or safety risk in progress or about to be committed
- Call non-emergency at 867-667-5555 if the event has already happened



- Call 911 if you see a fire in progress
- Call non-emergency at 867-668-2462 if you have any fire safety concerns



- Property conditions, graffiti, excessive noise
 - Obstructions on streets/sidewalk
 - Litter/dumping on public spaces
- 867-667-2111 bylaw.services@whitehorse.ca**



- Call 911 if you see someone who is nonresponsive or experiencing a medical emergency
- Wait for an ambulance and do not move the person



- If you have concerns about an individual's behaviour, health, safety or welfare on the property
 - Concerns about the property or excessive noise
 - Call Connective anytime for immediate concerns
- 867-455-2820 wes@connective.ca**