

# 405 Alexander

## Report to the Community

Welcome to the sixth edition of our 405 Alexander Report to the Community! We have been eager for the arrival of warmer temperatures and all that comes with this season of renewal & rebirth.

### A Message from Chris Kinch

Vice President - Service Delivery of Northern BC & Yukon

Alongside the continued provision of our essential community services, the months since our last update have been marked by the wave of grief, sadness, and pain that accompanied the Yukon Coroner's Inquest into the deaths of Cassandra Warville, Myranda Tizya-Charlie, Josephine Elizabeth Hager, and Darla Skookum.

As an organization committed to growth and accountability, Connective recognizes that inquests are a vital public process and a necessary component of honouring lives lost, learning from tragedy, and improving outcomes for those we serve.

Crucial as inquests are, we also acknowledge the heavy mental and emotional toll that accompanies them. First and foremost, on the families, friends, and communities of the deceased, all of whom displayed profound strength in reliving the details of these tragic events so others could benefit from the resulting lessons learned.

Now that this challenging process has concluded and recommendations have been released, Connective is hard at work mapping out a plan for short-, medium-, and longer-term program changes.

We affirm and endorse all of the jury's recommendations, and are fully committed to taking action on them. We will continue to work together with our partners at the Council of Yukon First Nations, and funders at the Yukon Government, to ensure that we are making timely progress. We are confident that the recommendations, and steps taken to address them, will positively impact all service users at 405 Alexander.

Our profound gratitude goes out to everyone whose time, expertise, and insight shaped this process and its outcomes. We are eager to make the most of all that has been brought forward and more effectively respond to these complex community challenges.



- Chris Kinch

Connective began operating  
405 Alexander in Oct 2022.

Since then,

#### CONNECTIVE STAFF HAVE

Served  
**194,108**

Meals

Via on-site and  
takeaway dinners

Hosted  
**23,962**

Stays

In our 54  
emergency beds

Distributed  
**15,632**  
Harm Reduction Items

Everything from  
condoms to Naloxone

Averted  
**67**  
Overdoses  
Through Naloxone  
administration

# YUKON CORONER'S INQUEST

## Recommendation Implementation Progress

### 1. Policy Review | Timeline: 6 mos

- Relevant organizational policies, procedures, and guidelines – including those identified as priorities by Inquest jurors – have been captured and organized for review.
- We are currently engaging with an external resource to support the review and feedback processes needed to inform policy revisions.

### 2. Training Review | Timeline: 6 mos

- We are identifying training options to support improvements to onboarding, orientation, and ongoing professional development – including those identified as priorities by Inquest jurors.
- We are conducting this work in concert with our policy review, to ensure training is aligned with any required policy updates.

### 3. Staffing Priorities | Timeline: Immediately

- We have revised our job postings to prioritize Indigenous recruitment, remove barriers limiting Indigenous applications, and add messaging about preferential candidates.
- We will continue to advance work in this area by creating a recruitment page dedicated to equity deserving groups, establishing additional local partnerships to support Indigenous recruitment, and attending Indigenous-focused networking, info sessions, and job fairs.

### 4. Evaluation | Yukon Government Led

- The Yukon Government is working with Yukon First Nations to lead an evaluation of Connective's compliance with Recommendations 1-3.

### 5. Independent Critical Incident Review | Timeline: Ongoing

- We are working closely with YG to develop a framework and process for this type of review.

### 6. Grief & Loss Supports for Communities & Staff | Timeline: 2 & 6 mos

- **Communities:** YG has taken the lead on engaging those impacted by the Inquest – we are committed to following their lead on the appropriate timing and manner of engagement.
- **Staff:** We are reviewing a plan for in-person counseling supports. In the interim, monthly group virtual sessions and a guidebook with local, in-person, benefit supported options have been established.

### 7. Communication | Timeline: 6 mos

- We are collaborating with CYFN's on site Cultural Support Team to host the first Sharing Circle in June, and working to enhance awareness and opportunities for service user feedback on services received.
- Feedback on current shift exchange practices is being collected and will inform future improvements.

### 8. Safe Spaces | Timeline: 6 mos

- We are working on a plan to engage with local LGBTQ2S+ and women-focused service organizations to explore the development of safe spaces, and safety generally, at 405 Alexander.

# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## Kaushee's Place & Betty's Haven

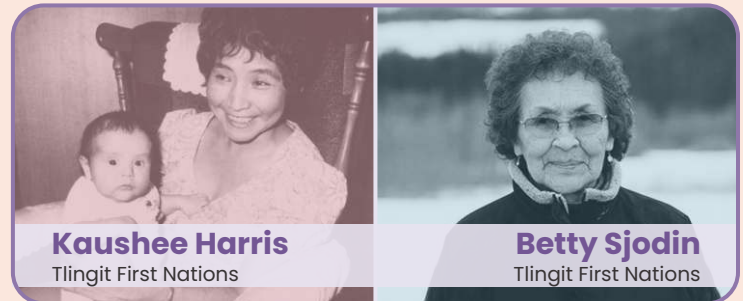
Under Construction (in more ways than one!)

**Kaushee's Place Support Line**  
867.668.5743 | Text or Call 24/7

**Sexualized Assault Support Line**  
844.967.7275 | Call 24/7

The Yukon Women's Transition Home is going by a new name – two of them, to be precise!

In an effort to be more gender inclusive, the organization is rebranding as **Kaushee's Place (KP)** and **Betty's Haven (BH)** – the names for their emergency shelter and second stage housing complex, respectively.



KP is a free transition home for women & gender diverse people of all ages who are experiencing violence. It offers a shared kitchen and living room, nine bedrooms, and a playroom. Residents can also get staff support to access a variety of community resources.

BH is a 10-unit housing complex where those who've stayed at KP can apply to live for up to 18 months. Residents pay social housing rates for 1-3 bedroom apartments and access to a communal kitchen. Staff also provide a variety of supports, advocacy, and referrals.

### A Message from Michelle Parsons

Executive Director  
and Member of the Dak'laweidi Clan of the Wolf Moiety

"We've recently made some great changes to our services. Most obvious are the massive renovations at KP – we are redoing kitchens and bathrooms in all 5 apartments, and work in the basement to move to a **completely green building that won't run on fossil fuels.**

We are definitely still open, but have contractors on site, so pardon the mess!

We've also restructured, to provide more consistent support to service users at KP, and to second-stage residents in both KP and BH.

Finally, to help foster community, we removed the barrier between the backyards (so that service users can move freely between them), added a number of seating areas, and installed a sandbox for the kiddos!

As a Sexualized Assault Response Team partner, we're receiving funding to facilitate access to services for Victims of Sexualized and Gender-based Violence. If you need transport to services in another community, our network can assist with travel support.

We can also accompany anyone to the hospital for a 'rape-kit,' and help you anonymously report your information to the RCMP. This can be done at any time, whether or not 'rape-kit' has been completed.

I can't say I hope to see you (as that indicates you're in danger), but please do feel free to drop in and say hello! If you want to discuss your experiences, you can reach me at:

☎ **867-633-7722**      ✉ **ed@ywths.ca**

Please stay safe!"



### Logo Redesign Contest!

Looking to replace their logo with one that better represents the Yukon, KP & BH have launched a contest for Indigenous youth.



Scan the QR code  
for full contest details!

# BEADS AND BANNOCK

Cultural Programming at 405 Alexander



Council of Yukon  
First Nations

Recognizing the role culture plays in healing, growth, and resilience for our Indigenous residents and service users, we are honoured to partner with the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) to provide cultural support and programming at 405 Alexander.

Support encompasses everything from traditional meal preparation to arts instruction, smudging, prayer circles, and individual counselling.

**“Culture is an important protective factor in everyone's lives, helping people deal with stressors and build resiliency.”**

- Chantal, CYFN

## Recent Activities Included:

**Dreamcatcher Workshop:** Over three days in mid-April, at 405's 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor cultural space, CYFN led service users through a dream-catcher creation workshop. Activities like this help to foster a sense of inclusion & identity.

**Unity Walk:** To close out the recent Coroner's Inquest, CYFN supported the Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council to organize a Unity in the Community Walk. Leaving from Main street and passing 405, the walk ended with a prayer circle and lunch.

**Summer BBQ:** In June, CYFN hosted a BBQ to bring together residents and service users of 405 Alexander, giving them a chance to share a meal and foster community.

## WHO TO CALL, WHEN TO CALL

Supporting Community Wellbeing in Whitehorse



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 fire safety concerns



Call **911** if you see someone who's having a medical emergency

Wait for an ambulance and do not move the person



Contact **bylaw** about property or public space concerns

☎ **867-667-2111**



Contact **Moccasin Mobile** if you have concerns about an individual's behaviour or safety in the downtown core.

Hours: Thu-Sat, 8:00PM - 2:00AM

☎ **867-336-3166** (Call or Text)



Contact **Connective** if you have concerns about an individual's behaviour or safety, about the state of the property, or about excessive noise at 405 Alexander.

☎ **867-455-2820**