



Welcome to the tenth edition of our **Connective Report to the Community!** A lot has happened since our last update, and so we are pleased to offer news, updates, and stories from across our community.

TOUCHING BASE:

In Conversation with Connective Leadership

Greetings! It has been a busy few months for residents and service users, with everything from pumpkin carving and Halloween dances to Thanksgiving turkeys.

A colder than usual start to the season has meant that activities have moved indoors – drum, rattle, and dry meat making, smudging, guitar playing, and more, led by CYFN's Cultural Support Worker.

405 has also been lucky to have continued visits from the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation Community Wellness Worker, and the Carcross Tagish First Nation Outreach Worker.

Connective staff have been busy preparing units at 405 for transitional housing, and for our annual Christmas turkey dinner, taking place on December 25!



Chantal Genier

Director of Yukon Operations
& Engagement



Holiday Season Across Connective



DONATION DRIVE

Seeking: Winter Gear

We're experiencing one of the coldest winters in years, and many in the community lack warm clothing. This can cause severe discomfort and can lead to more serious health problems.

We are asking anyone with new or gently used, warm winter gear to consider donating!



We are looking for:



- Base Layers
- Boots
- Fleece Items
- Gloves
- Jackets
- Outer Pants
- Scarves
- Toques
- Warm Socks



Donations can be dropped off at
405 Alexander, between 7AM - 4PM



SERVICE REFRESH:

New Agreement Signed for 405 Alexander

This fall, we were pleased to renew our operating agreement at 405 Alexander, allowing us to continue to enhance services for another year.

Here's what that means for our community.



WHAT WILL REMAIN | Maintaining our Person-Centred Approach



Access to 24/7 emergency shelter services, for adult men and women



Operation of 20 transitional housing units, located on the 2nd/3rd floors



Provision of harm reduction and safer-use supplies, education, & training

Cultural Support: Culturally appropriate and trauma-informed supports and services, counselling, and activities.

Emergency Medical Services: Access to primary care, drug checking, and take-home Fentanyl testing kits.

Kwanlin Dün First Nation Health Centre Outreach: Referrals to other agencies, sexually transmitted infection testing, foot care, and immunizations.



Access to drop in space between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, every day



Provision of food, clothing, sanitary supplies, and other basic need items



Outreach and community referral services

Mental Wellness & Substance Use Services: Weekly access to counselling and other mental health and addiction supports.

Referred Care Clinic: Twice weekly clinic providing service user access to a physician, outreach nurse, and social worker.

Blood Ties: Regularly scheduled, on-site wellness and harm reduction programming.

WHAT WILL CHANGE | Evolving and Enhancing our Services



Transition from **tenancy** to **program** agreements on the 2nd/3rd floors, to enhance resident well-being and success.



Hire more staff to increase the number per shift rotation, and help provide 24/7 case management, support increased wellness checks and overnight monitoring, oversee guests, and fulfill program deliverables for transitional housing residents.



Establish agreements to better outline the roles & responsibilities of on-site medical and clinical services.



Enhance partnerships with off-site service providers (such as Whitehorse General Hospital, Legal Aid, and Victim's Services), and with Yukon First Nations, to provide more cultural supports and connections to home communities.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Derek Bryant

405 Alexander's Referred Care Clinic

In response to the opioid crisis, the Referred Care Clinic (RCC) began operating a "pop-up" clinic at 405 Alexander in late 2022. It helped reach a population that was not as well served by traditional, clinic-based primary care.

For Dr. Bryant and his team, looking back to where things started in 2022 can almost feel quaint.

"What started as a very small operation has grown into a comprehensive, on-site medical service."

Today, the clinic offers a wide range of services to residents and guests of 405 Alexander, including:

- Bloodwork
- Wound care and dressing changes
- Abscess management
- STI screening & treatment
- Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT)

Opioid Agonist Therapy is an evidence-based treatment that significantly reduces the risk of opioid overdose. It helps prevent withdrawal, reduces cravings for opioid drugs, and gives those living with addiction a tool to stabilize their lives and reduce the harms related to drug use.

"Our team has responded to emergencies such as overdoses, anaphylaxis, and seizures, and we regularly coordinate hospital admissions for patients who require acute care.

We also support patients to access medications and resources for substance use care."

The RCC at 405 is a clear demonstration of the importance of providing low-barrier access to medical care, especially for those facing housing instability or other barriers.

"405 Alexander is, without a doubt, my favourite place to work in the Yukon."



Practical barriers, such as not having a phone or a fixed address, "can make it extremely difficult to coordinate follow-up care without strong, wrap-around supports. Without these supports, health issues often worsen over time," explains Dr. Bryant.

Having physicians onsite at 405 Alexander every Monday and Thursday is a way for "people to know they can drop in and be seen without an appointment.

This allows us to meet people where they are, build trust, and help patients navigate a complex health and social services system through consistent outreach support."

Before the outreach clinic was established at 405, "it was difficult to consistently connect with some of our RCC patients living at the shelter," explained Dr Bryant.

As a result, many were lost to follow-up, and instead continued living with untreated or poorly managed medical conditions.

"Since launching the outreach clinics, our outreach nursing team now has a regular, trusted presence in the shelter, allowing us to build sustained relationships and better track patients' ongoing care needs."

"We've been able to help prevent unnecessary ER visits, and connect people with timely, and sometimes, potentially life-saving treatments."

Connective is deeply grateful to Dr. Bryant and his team for all that they do, and all that they offer to the those who access 405 Alexander, and we look forward to continuing our partnership.