



NEWS RELEASE

Council of Yukon First Nations and John Howard Society Pacific Forge New Partnership

WHITEHORSE—The Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) and the John Howard Society Pacific (JHSP) have developed an agreement that confirms parameters of the organizations’ working relationship. The agreement will guide the sharing of expertise and solutions related to programs that support people with complex needs, specifically Yukon First Nations with the goal of collaboration on the delivery of programs in the Yukon. The agreement provides an outline that formalizes the arrangement for governance of the organizations’ shared activities. The organizations have recently partnered on several expression of interest submissions and have made joint proposals to the federal and territorial governments.

The John Howard Society Pacific has a long history of service delivery and expertise in supporting people with complex needs. The Council of Yukon First Nations has a long history of working for the advancement and betterment of Yukon First Nations and is in a strong position to deliver and advise on services that meet the needs of Yukon First Nations.

Quotes:

“The agreement formalizes the commitment between the Council of Yukon First Nations and John Howard Society to work collaboratively to support and enhance service delivery for the benefit of Yukon First Nations,” said CYFN Grand Chief Peter Johnston. “It is a welcomed partnership that affirms CYFN’s active involvement in solutions and supports that are culturally-informed and appropriate for Yukon First Nations, helping to address gaps in current service delivery models.”

“Through this agreement, we are pleased to formalize the partnership between the John Howard Society and Council of Yukon First Nations” said JHS CEO Mark Miller. “Our collaboration with CYFN is invaluable to ensuring that we provide services which meet the needs of Yukon First Nations. We are honoured to have the opportunity to work alongside CYFN and learn from Yukon First Nations, and are committed to ensuring that we provide culturally-informed and appropriate services for the people and communities we serve.”

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BACKGROUND

The purpose of the agreement made between the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) and the John Howard Society Pacific (JHSP) is to confirm the organizations' shared approach to programming that supports Yukon First Nations with complex needs and formalize the arrangement for governance of the organizations' shared activities.

The partner organizations will exchange views, information, experience, and solutions related to programs that support people with complex needs, and collaborate on the delivery of such programs in the Yukon.

The agreement outlines five key areas for collaboration between CYFN and the JHSP:

- Creating opportunities to better support the integration of Yukon First Nations people with complex needs into the community through coordination, collaboration, advocacy, and policy development;
- Collaborating on the design and approach of programs in the Yukon;
- Partnering to deliver culturally safe, sensitive, and relevant services to Yukon First Nations;
- Sharing information on lessons learned and issues related to providing services to Yukon First Nation individuals with complex needs;
- Consulting on operational challenges and critical incidents which may have an impact on the wellbeing of Yukon First Nations.

In all these activities, the partners will seek to ensure multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral, trauma-informed, and inclusive approaches that take full account of issues related to human rights and inclusion.

The organizations have recently partnered on joint submissions to expressions of interest and proposal calls by the federal and territorial governments. These prospective initiatives include:

- Services for Justice-Involved Women;
- Housing First Residence;
- Whitehorse Emergency Shelter;
- Shelter for Indigenous Women and Children fleeing Violence;
- Preventing and Addressing Family Violence Program.

CYFN is also supporting JHSP in the delivery of cultural services and supports at Supervised Housing and Reintegration Program (SHARP), funded by Reaching Home.