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MR. CORY VANTHUYNE  
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE NORTH

**Oral Question 572-18(2): Social Services Facilities in Downtown Yellowknife**

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This letter is in response to the Oral Question you raised on February 15, 2017 requesting an update on the status of relocation of the Yellowknife Day Shelter. Under the Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan, the Department of Health and Social Services is working collaboratively to reduce homelessness, develop safe and affordable housing approaches, and provide an integrated continuum of services. The Department provides core funding and Anti-Poverty Funding to the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) – Yellowknife Region to support the Yellowknife Safe Harbour Day Shelter.

I can report recent initiatives to help address continued resident concerns regarding homelessness in the downtown core. The Day Shelter hours of operation were extended as of January 1, 2017. The shelter is now open 12 hours per day, from 7:00am to 7:00pm, seven days per week and on all holidays. The Yellowknife Day Shelter provides shelter to approximately 35-70 persons on a daily basis. As stated in the House, the long term goal is to have the Day Shelter and Sobering Centre programs co-located, ideally in the downtown core, to ensure that clients have ease of access to the services they require.

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Given the numerous challenges in finding a location that can house both facilities, co-locating the Day Shelter with a Sobering Centre may not be a possibility. Our current priority is finding an appropriate location for a Sobering Centre, while we work towards our long term goal of amalgamating both facilities into one location. Currently, an option for a Sobering Centre outside of the downtown core is being assessed as a short term solution. I hope to have additional information to share in the next few weeks

Thank you.



Glen Abernethy  
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Mr. Tim Mercer  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings  
Legislative Coordinator, Executive