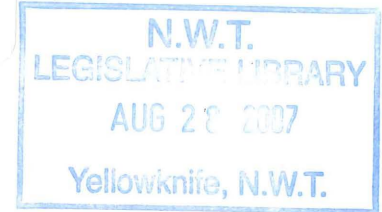


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PRESS RELEASE*For immediate release – July 24, 2007***Not For Profit Salaries Woefully Inadequate under GNWT Contracts**

Amid debate about the adequacy of salaries for not-for-profit agencies to deliver government contracted services, the YWCA Yellowknife released findings of a recent report on behalf of five not-for-profit agencies based in Yellowknife. Overall findings of the study, which compared similar jobs in the government with jobs under contract by the government to not-for-profit agencies, concluded:

“It is clearly demonstrated that the wage gap continues to increase and is unsustainable. Unless there is a major rethinking of how the funding regarding staffing costs change dramatically over the next few years, these agencies will not be able to attract or retain the skilled staff necessary to manage programs that play a key role in providing support for those most vulnerable in the NWT and Yellowknife community. The agencies will not be able to continue to remain a viable economic alternative for government to turn to for support.”

Lyda Fuller, Executive Director of the YWCA Yellowknife, the lead agency for the study, stated “I was shocked to discover that our YWCA salaries and benefits are only 59% of comparable GNWT positions for front line services.” The report is recommending that the GNWT bring agencies they contract with up to 80% of GNWT salaries and benefits. The agencies, which included Tree of Peace, The Salvation Army, the NWT Council for Persons with Disabilities and the Yellowknife Association for Community Living, have agreed that the recommendation is critical. “We are willing to support a phased in approach to make this more likely to happen” says Cecily Hewitt, of the NWT Council for Persons with Disabilities.

The study found that the gap in wages has been growing, and agencies have been forced to delete positions or cancel services to fund any salary increases. Turnover rates for not-for-profit staff are increasing due to work burnout and better paying positions elsewhere. The five agencies identified turnover rates for government funded program positions ranging from 25% to 150% each year – on average 50%.

“This just isn’t acceptable,” says Jane Whyte of the Yellowknife Association for Community Living. “We are spending all of our management team’s time interviewing, hiring and orienting new staff – most of whom leave in less than twelve months,” Lyda Fuller acknowledged.

The matter of improving wages for groups under contract with the GNWT now rests with the Financial Management Board Secretariat.

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