

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**N.W.T.
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Yellowknife, N.W.T.

TITLE: Territorial Treatment Centre**ISSUE:** History / Chronology of Territorial Treatment Centre (TTC) Project**BACKGROUND:**

- The TTC program provides residential treatment and crisis intervention services for difficult-to-treat children and adolescents receiving treatment under the Northwest Territories Child and Family Services Act. The program represents only 50% of the residential treatment beds available in the Northwest Territories for children and teens, the remaining 50% being at the Trail Cross facility in Fort Smith.
- Currently the DHSS, through the health and social authorities delivers two residential treatment programs for children and adolescents in the Northwest Territories. The residential treatment program in Yellowknife is one of the two and provides intensive, co-educational programs for children 8 to 12 years suffering from social, emotional, behavioural and / or other psychological difficulties. The services are provided through a contract with a knowledgeable service provider. The contract is administered by the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority on behalf of the DHSS and all territorial authorities. Educational programming is provided by the Yellowknife Catholic School Board and provides for one classroom teacher and teachers aide.
- The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) owns both the TTC facility in Yellowknife and the Dene K'onia facility in Hay River. The TTC facility was originally built in 1961 as a two level structure of 618 sq.m. Additions were made to it in 1995 with a single story building of 196 sq.m. making the existing facility 814 sq.m.
- In June 1998 the DHSS was informed by Public Works & Services (PW&S) that the current territorial facility's residential space was no longer viable and required substantial renovations. In 2001-02, the Financial Management Board approved 3.3 million dollars (substantiation sheet - Appendix 2) as total project costs for renovations under the Capital Plan. The project did not progress until 2004/05 as the program and functional direction was being reviewed. The DHSS has been reviewing the renovation requirements to the Yellowknife facility in order to maintain the current TTC. Approximately \$40,000 has been spent to date on the TTC project in Yellowknife.
- In the summer of 2003 the Department of Public Works and Services (PW&S) prepared a technical status evaluation of the Somba K'e Healing Lodge located in Dettah. This report was provided to the Department of Health and Social Services

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and the NWT Housing Corporation to assist in the consideration of potential uses for the facility. The Somba K'e Healing Lodge is a 30 bed residential building specifically designed for relatively long term residential treatment of adults with addictions. The technical report found that:

- Mechanical systems were in fair to poor working order with missing and inoperative control components in some areas and all exhaust fans inoperative or at the end of their service life;
 - Modifications required to the heating system to include the installation of an air exchanger and improvements to water storage to maintain water quality;
 - Upgrades to current Codes and standards required for oil storage, kitchen fire protection and ventilation upgrades, sprinkler upgrades, and hit;
 - Modifications required for full disability access;
 - Fire Alarm system non-functional; and
 - Emergency lighting system is not operational.
 - The total estimated cost is \$3,200,000
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- In the fall / early winter of 2004, prior to the decision to close Dene K'onia being finalized, the Department had examined this as a potential site to move TTC.
 - The Dene K'onia facility in Hay River was originally constructed in 1967 as a single level structure of 438 square metres (sq.m). In 1977, another 78 sq. m of space was added to it and in 1985 additional 53 sq.m were added resulting in the present facility of 569 sq.m. Recently, the Department of Justice announced the closure of their young offenders program in the Dene K'onia facility in Hay River as of April 2005. This is an open custody facility with capacity for 10 beds.
 - In light of the availability, DHSS investigated the feasibility of relocating the current TTC program from Yellowknife to Hay River. In conjunction with Public Works and Services, it was determined that the present spatial layout of Dene K'onia facility does not meet the needs of the current TTC program as developed by DHSS therefore major changes to the existing floor plan layout of Dene K'onia are required to accommodate the current program. Operational equipment was also deemed to have reached the end of service life and others do not have the capacity for expansion. However, PW&S have estimated that the total project costs to renovate Dene K'onia facility to accommodate the current TTC program will be within 3.3 million dollars.
 - Educational resources in either community are already supported under the school board funding formula and each facility currently has a teacher through either the Hay River School Board in Dene K'onia or by the Yellowknife Catholic School Board in Yellowknife. Thus there is minimal impact to ECE funding as the number of children in

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the program is reduced to 8 from 10 in Dene K'onia.

- Because residential treatment and crisis intervention services for difficult-to-treat children is a different program than the existing young offenders program in the Dene K'onia facility, this program change will require an agreement from the Hay River Educational Authority on the continuation of teacher's services in the facility. The teacher may require training specific to the needs of children in the program.

Attachments

1. December 10, 2004 - Program Fit to Dene K'onia – report
2. November 24, 2004 – Briefing note outlining options for the TTC
 - Cost and service comparison
 - March 22, 2004 letter from Public Works and Services on costs
3. July 2003 – consideration of the Somba K'e Healing Lodge as a facility to house the TTC
 - Technical Status Evaluation Reports on the Counselling Building
 - Technical Status Evaluation Reports on the Main Building

