



Yukon Housing Corporation
PO Box 2703 Y-1, Whitehorse Yukon Y1A 2C6

January 30, 2024

Dear Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts:

Re: Progress update on the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

On December 28, 2023, Yukon Housing Corporation (YHC) and the Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) released a progress update on the work plan developed to address the 2022 recommendations made by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) of Canada.

Status updates on each of the work plan's 34 actions as well as estimated completion dates are available on [Yukon.ca](https://www.yukon.ca).

In addition, YHC would like to provide a progress update on our work to address the six recommendations provided in Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, released in June 2023.

Recommendation no. 1: THAT the Yukon Housing Corporation track and assess changes to improve waiting list modelling forecasts and report back to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts with data that determines the effectiveness of such changes. (Related work plan action # 40.4)

Update:

- YHC conducted a waitlist survey with Yukon Bureau of Statistics between October 3 and 30, 2023. The response rate was above average at 34 per cent. Telephone follow ups with non-responses occurred throughout November 2023.
- The survey results are currently being analyzed, with key findings and recommendations to be put forward to YHC senior leadership by March 2024. This will inform any future changes to YHC's waitlist management.

Recommendation no. 2: THAT that the Yukon Housing Corporation and the Department of Health and Social Services consult with stakeholders about the possibility of using the by-name list to assess the veracity of their own waiting lists. (Related work plan action # 87.3)

Update:

- YHC and HSS are working with the Safe at Home Society to implement coordinated access--an approach to addressing homelessness in the Yukon and rapidly house people who identify as homeless or precariously housed. This work depends on

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appropriately and safely managing people's personal information as required by privacy of information laws in the Yukon. Protecting the privacy of individuals participating in coordinated access e.g., the By Name List, is paramount in implementing a coordinated access program in the territory. YHC and HSS continue to work through this issue in pursuit of an effective operational approach to this recommendation.

- YHC's new allocation policy includes prioritization of units for individuals on the By-name list.

Recommendation no. 3: THAT the Yukon Housing Corporation consult with stakeholder groups about the new tenant allocation policy, as well as any further changes that are planned to the prioritization system and eligibility requirements. (Related work plan action # 31.2, 31.2, 40.4)

Update:

- Baseline data will be collected in 2024 to inform a policy review of the tenant allocation model, scheduled for late 2024, early 2025. Stakeholder groups will be engaged during the policy review.

Recommendation no. 4: THAT the Yukon Housing Corporation review the eligibility thresholds including the Yukon Housing Corporation asset cap policy annually. (Related work plan action # 31.2, 31.2, 40.4)

Update:

- In December 2022, YHC implemented a revised asset cap policy to address the findings of the 2022 OAG report. These changes limit the eligibility of Rent-Geared-to-Income applicants who possess assets over \$100,000.
- These changes will not be applied retroactively to seniors already housed in Yukon housing units or those who were on the waitlist when the changes were implemented.
- Further review of the asset cap policy is underway.

Recommendation no. 5: THAT the Yukon Housing Corporation should consult with the Association of Yukon Communities on plans to complete community needs assessments in the remaining six communities in the 2023- 24 fiscal year. (Related work plan action # 87.2)

Recommendation no. 6: THAT the Yukon Housing Corporation consider ways to better ensure that capital management plans are demonstrably informed by the community needs assessment that it conducts. (Related work plan action # 40.1, 40.5)

Update for 5 and 6:

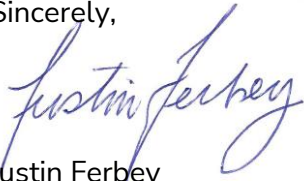
- YHC met with the Association of Yukon Communities in fall 2023 to discuss rural community housing needs and the corporation's approach to regular housing needs assessments.

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- A comprehensive standard approach to assess housing needs is currently being developed by YHC.
 - Specifically, the intent is for YHC to replicate this approach with communities identified as part of a 3-to 5-year cycle.
- This new approach will support YHC, communities and partners to:
 - better understand housing needs and gaps across the territory; and
 - inform capital and policy decision-making.
- YHC and related departments will continue to work with other stakeholders, including Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Association of Yukon Communities and First Nations governments, on a coordinated, Yukon-wide approach that will inform the development of common housing priorities.

We trust that this information sufficiently informs you of the work underway to address the recommendations from the Public Accounts Committee. We expect to provide an additional update toward the end of 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Justin Ferbey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Justin" and last name "Ferbey" clearly legible.

Justin Ferbey

President, Yukon Housing Corporation