



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

Deputy Mayor Garrett Cochrane
CAEH 2024 conference

Overview report

October 28th:

5AM-4PM

Traveled from Yellowknife to Ottawa.

6PM

Checked in at my hotel in downtown Ottawa.

6:30PM

Went to the Conference center to pick up my package for the conference.

October 29th:

8:00AM-9:30AM

Attended the opening ceremony and plenary where we had a land acknowledgement, followed by a water ceremony, speech from the Deputy Mayor of Ottawa and finished with keynote performed by the Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada. Very emotional and enlightening experience all around.

10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Celebrate the joys of being 2Spirit, Queer, and Trans session. Facilitators from The 519, a hub for 2SLGBTQ+ individuals in Toronto, provided a generative space focused on community-building. It was welcoming environment to celebrate the joys of being 2Spirit, Queer, and Trans, while also addressing the unique challenges we encounter in the housing sector due to our identities. This gathering was an opportunity for connection, reflection, and solidarity. Great networking opportunity all around and it was interesting hear queer experiences working in the front lines of homelessness and the housing crisis.

11:30AM-12AM

Had lunch with Dan Ritchie, The City's Homelessness Specialist, for a run down on the morning's events and his perspective on our more local homelessness issues.

1:30-3:00PM

Tenants Deserve Better: A Look at Housing Stability and Eviction Prevention Programs-This comprised 3 presentations;

1. Expanding the Safety Net: Why a Housing First Approach Isn't Enough, Lindsay Enns & Kristin Kennedy, Siloam Mission. Located in Winnipeg, this was primarily about short term case management and housing loss prevention. What was quite clear is that the social work and workers proved very successful at assuring either salvaging the housing in questions (seniors and hoarders) or rehousing quickly(younger, addiction prone). The main take away is to keep with the spirit of a policy, not the word.
2. Expanding Eviction Prevention Practices - An innovative and evidence-based approach to support successful tenancies from day one, Jennifer Stacey, Calgary Housing Company, this is the largest affordable housing company in Alberta and provides rental subsidies to over 3000 units. It has evolved from a regulator to a social innovator with the principle that homelessness prevention is positive for community foundation. Started during covid and has grown since, and focus on best practice research, housing stability and preventing evection. This is down through payment plans and early intervention. Interesting perspectives on housing stability and eviction mitigation policy, but primarily out of our jurisdiction.
3. Eviction Prevention and Housing Stability: A Case Study of Rent Banks in BC, Melissa Giles, & Bryn Sadownik, Vancity Community Foundation. The primary focus is to make policy into action, with a focus on implementation. Rent banks are now in over 13 communities, and work to try to deal with both housing stability and eviction prevention by a case management with accessibility(online applications). They primarily deal with people in their 30's but seniors are growing. BC hydro is a partner, and the Rent bank has set up where they offer loans to pay off hydro bills to get them out of arrears, and then offer grants to get them rehoused. This formulated by the BC government with an initial 10 million dollar infusion, another 11 million coming this budget, but they primarily have a 60/40 split in funding, with 40% done

through fund raising. Interesting program overall, and something I could see the GNWT taking a lead in, but not the city.

3:30PM-5:00PM

Storytelling for change: How to develop a public narrative that brings people together; More motivating than research, more interesting than facts, storytelling is the foundation to every successful campaign. Learn how to craft your own and your organization's story to engage donors, supporters, decision makers, the media, and other stakeholders, and drive them to take action. Lead by Mike Perry, Institute for Change Leaders, this was an interesting discussion on how to change the language and perspectives by using techniques often used in political campaigning. Overall, pretty basic but not without value.

October 30th:

8:30AM-10AM

Day 2 Morning Plenary, with keynote speaker Guy Felicella. The best speaking engagement of the entire conference as Guy was authentic, inspiring and at times heart breaking. Would recommend watching an interview or TED talk by him.

10:00AM-11:30AM

In 2021, ATEHO hired a part-time team of people with lived experience to act as consultants to Ottawa's housing and homelessness sector, researchers, and government. Over the past three years, the Expert Steering Team (EST) has proven to be the missing piece at tables of power. Supported by an Engagement Manager, the EST has developed an effective and ethical model for lived experience engagement through training and educational offerings, education and advocacy, consultations, focus groups and committees. Their work is grounded in principles of ethical engagement, equity, and human rights with a trauma-informed lens. This session shared the development path and learnings through the voices of the EST, the Engagement Manager, and our partners and funders. This was conducted with four smaller sub groups, City of Ottawa, Engagement manager, program developer and those with a lived experience. The biggest take away was there lived experience advisory group that has real say on policy development at the city, where they pay them. The EST will be making a policy guide that I have asked them to send us with the research when done. Though much of this has to be taken with a grain of salt, as it was conducted in a southern urban setting, but could still prove valuable as a case study.

11:30AM-12AM

Had lunch again with Dan Ritchie, The City's Homelessness Specialist, for his perspective on the conference so far and what we can take back to the City for implementation. I

have a huge amount of respect for and think of him as one of our greatest and yet fully utilized assets.

1:30-3:00PM

Encampment Response Service : A Pathway to Housing. The new Encampment Response Service, a collaboration between the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness and OrgCode. The session introduced a comprehensive, community-focused service designed to transition individuals from encampments into stable housing. We learned how this partnership can provide tailored support to address your community's needs, enhance local capacity, and prevent future encampments through a sustainable, data-driven, approach. This turned into one of the longest Q/A's I saw at the conference, and I even asked how we can bring empathy back into the conversation with encampments? They didn't really know, but they want to figure it out. Still, this is certainly a service we can keep in mind for the future.

3:30PM-5:00PM

Fireside Chat with CAEH and Scott Aitchison, Member of Parliament and Conservatives Housing Critic. As housing and homelessness continue to dominate the political and public discourse, all parties are sharing their ideas and solutions with Canadians. Tim Richter, CEO of the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, was joined by Scott Aitchison, Member of Parliament for Parry Sound-Muskoka and Conservative Housing Critic, for a fireside chat about housing and homelessness. I was quite passionate about this as MP Aitchison was adamant that Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) was a failure and I adamantly disagreed with him, publicly. We had an interesting back and forth on the programs success and what he intends to replace it with if they take the reigns of the federal government in the form of an amorphous infrastructure initiative. I politely retorted that housing and infrastructure are not the same thing, but he said housing was on a continuum of infrastructure. Well, those are words. I spoke with him after about releasing the federal housing stock on the market, defense investment and continuing to fund our HAF initiatives in some form or another. Overall, very positive.

October 31st-November 1st

11AM- 3:30PM the next day.

Checked out of my hotel, made my way to the airport with the intention to fly home that night, but had to reroute to Edmonton an hour out of YK. I was put up in a hotel for the night and flew back to this great city in the early afternoon.

CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE - EXPENSE CLAIM

EXPENSE ITEMS	ALLOWABLE AMOUNTS Note: Receipts are required for ALL items indicated in "Receipts" column	RECEIPTS Number & show #	Enter date. Use one column for each day.				TOTAL EXPENSE	
			Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30	Oct. 31		
AIR TRAVEL	Economy Class (Attach passenger ticket with arrival/ departure times)							
RENTAL CAR	Actual							
PRIVATE VEHICLE	_____ km x _____ rate = \$ _____ (\$0.705/km NWT & \$0.565/km elsewhere)							
TAXI & TRANSIT	Receipts required for all amounts over \$5.00							
ACCOMMODATION	Hotels					654.96	654.96	
	Private Accommodation (\$50.00 / per night)							
INCIDENTALS	\$17.50 / day		17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	70.00	
MEALS	Do not claim for sponsored meals or meals included in price of transport	Breakfast \$28.10 / day	—	—	—	—		
		Lunch \$34.10 / day	—	34.10	34.10	34.10	102.30	
		Dinner \$72.95 / day	72.95	72.95	72.95	—	218.85	
TELEPHONE	Specify Purpose							
OTHER	Specify Purpose							
TOTAL EXPENSE	Specify Purpose						1046.11	
HONORARIUM	Council only - \$260.00 / day (paid separately through HR)		260	260	260	260	1040	
GRAND TOTAL			350.45	384.55	384.55	311.60	654.96	2086.11

I certify that I have expended the amounts claimed and that all expenditures were on City

Original Signed by Councillor

(SIGNATURE OF COUNCIL MEMBER)

11/19/2024
(DATE)

Less Advance Received - \$ _____

Original Signed by Mayor

(SIGNATURE OF MAYOR)

Dec 29, 2024
(DATE)

Balance Owing - To/by Employee/Councillor - \$ 2086.11

(CASH/CHEQUE ATTACHED)

Financial Coding: 6500-8-6000

Name: Rachel Lablanc Date: 11/19/2024
 Department: Mayor and Council
 The above named is authorized to travel for 4 days, departing October 28th, 2024
 For the purpose of: National Conference to end Homelessness
 For Travel Advance: _____ Approved, Mayor
 Authorization is given for a Travel Expense Advance of \$ _____ Approved, Mayor
 Coding: _____

CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE
TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION AND EXPENSE CLAIM