

CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

Councillor Garrett Cochrane  
CAEH 2025 conference

### **Overview report**

October 27<sup>th</sup>:

7AM-4PM

Traveled from Yellowknife to Montreal.

6PM

Checked in at my hotel in downtown Montreal.

6:10PM

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

October 28<sup>th</sup>:

8:00AM-9:30AM

Attended the opening ceremony and plenary where we had a land acknowledgement, followed by Youth smoke dancers, Inuit throat singers Nina Segalowitz and Lydia Etok- one of which was from the NWT. Speeches from the Valérie Plante, Mayor of Montreal and finished with keynote performed by the Hon. Chantal Rouleau, Quebec Minister Responsible for Social Solidarity and Community Action, and Minister Responsible for the Metropolis and the Montréal Region. An incredible experience all around.

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Preventing Homelessness: When Youth Lead the Change

This session explored how initiatives led by and for youth in Quebec are transforming research, community action, and services. Participants learned how participatory action research, engagement within youth protection services, and the co-creation of community programs foster youth expression and lead to concrete change. Coalition Jeunes+ was the group as the primary example of these tactics in action, and they demonstrated how large youth advocacy became in Quebec. From regular meetings with decision makers and interviews with media. I look forward to seeing how this organization will influence the upcoming provincial elections.

12:00PM-1:30PM

Had lunch with our ad hoc Northern Caucus, made up from GNWT, NGO's and other city representatives for a run down on the morning's events and to plan for the afternoon. After, Steven Page commenced a keynote presentation.

1:30-3:00PM

Leading Forward: Empowering the leaders of tomorrow to end homelessness today.

This interactive session will explore what leadership really looks like in complex, real-world systems. We were guided through hand-on activities, group discussions and reflection exercises that you can take home and apply in your day-to-day work. Topics included navigating through uncertainty, how to influence others, and building your leadership identity with authenticity and confidence. I attended with our staff and GNWT, Amanda DiFalco was an amazing speaker with a ton of insight that we all found both informative and revealing.

3:45PM-5:15PM

Preventing Homelessness through Affordable Housing: Lessons from Canada and Spain

This session will explore how non-profit housing providers in Canada and Spain are overcoming systemic barriers to expand affordable and supportive housing while preventing homelessness. Featuring Raising the Roof (Canada) and Fundació Hàbitat3 (Catalonia, Spain), the session highlighted strategies that combine housing development with long-term social support. Natalia Martinez Mustienes provided some essential insight what Hàbitat3 is accomplishing throughout the Catalonia state with supportive housing, and spoke about how the state is a funder of this project. Adrian Dingle spoke about what Raising the Roof is doing throughout the country, with some of the more recent projects in Edmonton.

5:15PM-7PM

Participated with the rest of the northern caucus in the welcome reception.

October 29<sup>th</sup>:

9AM-10AM

Breakfast and networking.

10:00AM-12PM

#### Maintaining Mission Driven Leadership in the Face of Adversity: Lessons from the USA

This session explored how to stay grounded in purpose-driven leadership—even in the face of adversity. Kicking off with a powerful framing on mission clarity and resilience, a panel of leaders from across the U.S. shared how they've held the line on what matters most during one of the most challenging periods in American homelessness response. From navigating under-resourced rural systems to scaling supportive housing and embedding equity, each speaker brings frontline insights and hard-won lessons. An incredibly inspiring session led by the amazing Iain De Jong, this was probably my favorite session of the event as it demonstrated what determination looks like in the midst of an incredibly reactionary time in American history.

12:00PM-1:30PM

Had lunch again with the Northern Caucus and listened to a panel of three influencers. The conversations between the northerners were incredibly beneficial, while the panel offered rather generic insights.

1:45-3:15PM

#### Partners in progress: how elected officials and advocates can collaborate to create change

This session will look at how leaders and sector partners can work together to shift public narratives, counter backlash, and turn shared goals into action. Get insights from the inside – and ideas you can take back to your own community. I had the pleasure of connecting with Councillor Areil Trost, Somerset Ward, during the federation of Canadian municipalities conference in the spring and it was a pleasure to hear what was being accomplished in her ward. Hearing from Anchor, Acorn and a youth program that if successful will end homelessness in Ottawa by 2030

3:45PM-5:15PM

#### Mobilizing community advocacy and action

In this session we learned how to build collective power, kick-start community-driven and grassroots campaigns, and form broad-based coalitions that centre lived experience. Whether you're working locally or pushing for national change, this session helped us turn passion into impact. Diana Chan McNally was a very passionate advocate, and it was an interesting discussion to listen to.

October 30<sup>th</sup>

8:30AM -10:30AM.

Fireside Chat with Minister of Housing and Infrastructure Gregor Robertson

Federal Minister of Housing and Infrastructure, the Hon Gregor Robertson, will sit down with CAEH President & CEO Tim Richter for a fireside chat about the federal government's work to tackle homelessness and the housing crisis, including the new Build Canada Homes initiative and the Homelessness Reduction Innovation Fund. It was interesting to hear the Ministers perspective when he was Mayor of Vancouver, the announcement of \$7 million for street outreach and what he wants his term to look like but he was a little cagey due to the fact the budget was coming the next week and questions from the audience were limited. We also participated in a networking session after, and spoke with a few service providers from Quebec

10:30AM-12:00PM

From Data to Community: Insights for Supporting 2SLGBTQ+ and High Risk Youth

This session explored the experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ and other at-risk youth through participatory research and Point-in-Time count data. Presenters shared rich data from the 2024 City of Toronto Street Needs Assessment, examining the intersections of race, sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status, while highlighting the unique pathways that lead to youth homelessness. The session delved into the importance of a pathways approach, which considers real-life experiences and systemic challenges faced by youth. Incredibly informative, and good to see the work being done but the Q&A went off the rocker when attendants got into stating their opinions on the objection to trans rights and pro-life tendencies- none of which had much to do with the subject matter.

12:30PM-3PM

Keynote Presentation: Jesse Thistle

Quite simply one of the most awe inspiring yet down-to-earth speakers I've ever had the pleasure of witnessing. His story and his academic research into Metis history really hit home with me, and I do hope he has an opportunity to come north sometime. My only regret is that I didn't have my copy of "From the Ashes" for him to sign.

October 31<sup>st</sup>

10:AM-9:30PM

Returned home to Yellowknife

**CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE - EXPENSE CLAIM**

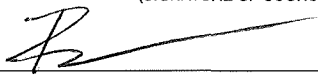
EXPENSE ITEMS	ALLOWABLE AMOUNTS Note: Receipts are required for ALL items indicated in "Receipts" column	RECEIPTS Number & show #	Enter date. Use one column for each day.					TOTAL EXPENSE
			Oct 27	Oct 28	Oct 29	Oct 30	Oct 31	
AIR TRAVEL	Economy Class (Attach passenger ticket with arrival/ departure times)							
RENTAL CAR	Actual							
PRIVATE VEHICLE	_____ km x _____ rate = \$ _____ (\$0.720/km NWT & \$0.599/km elsewhere)							
TAXI & TRANSIT	Receipts required for all amounts over \$5.00							
ACCOMMODATION	Hotels							\$994.88
	Private Accommodation (\$50.00 / per night)							
INCIDENTALS	\$17.50 / day							
MEALS	Do not claim for sponsored meals or meals included in price of transport	Breakfast \$28.85 / day					28.85	28.85
		Lunch \$35.05 / day	35.05				35.05	70.10
		Dinner \$74.95 / day		74.95	74.95	74.95		224.85
TELEPHONE	Specify Purpose							
OTHER	Specify Purpose							
TOTAL EXPENSE	Specify Purpose							1318.68
HONORARIUM	Council only - \$260.00 / day (paid separately through HR)		260.00	260.00	260.00	260.00	260.00	1300
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			295.05	334.95	334.95	334.45	323.90	\$2618.68

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE OF COUNCIL MEMBER)

11/21/25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

Less Advance Received - \$ \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE OF MAYOR)

Nov 24, 2025  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

Balance Owing - To/by Employee/Councillor - \$ 2618.68  
(CASH/CHEQUE ATTACHED)

Financial Coding: 6500-8-6000

**CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE  
TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION AND EXPENSE CLAIM**

Name: GAEET COCHRANE Date: NOVEMBER 12, 2025  
 Department: MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
 The above named is authorized to travel for 5 days, departing OCTOBER 21, 2025  
 For the purpose of: CASH EXPENSE

For Travel Advance: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved, Mayor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Authorization is given for a Travel Expense Advance of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Coding: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved, Mayor \_\_\_\_\_