

Question:

1. Currently, the GNWT does not provide any funding for the Yellowknife Street Outreach program.

Through your leadership, would you work with the City to co-fund the program, so that it can be expanded and improved?

Yes, as an MLA I would support GNWT support for the Yellowknife Street Outreach program. This program provides an essential service for individuals experiencing homelessness and should be funded by all levels of government accordingly.

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2. The GNWT's recent "A Way Home – A comprehensive strategy to address homelessness in the

NWT" has many great initiatives, including:

☑ setting up Regional Partnership tables;

☑ establishing long-term funding options to improve operator sustainability starting with zero-based budgeting to help identify and address funding gaps and accurately determine the cost of addressing homelessness through shelter operation in the NWT; and

☑ increasing GNWT funding for transitional housing programs to improve community-driven solutions to address local needs; and more.

Will you ensure these actions are implemented and funded?

Yes, I wholeheartedly support the initiatives outlined in the GNWT's "A Way Home" strategy. This said, addressing the root causes of homelessness must be prioritized. There are examples from other jurisdictions that focus on breaking the cycle of poverty that should be adopted by the GNWT. Two such programs are 'the nurse-family partnership', and 'on-the-land family counselling'. For more information on these initiatives please visit my webpage: spencertracy.ca

3. In Eugene, Oregon, there is a program called CAHOOTS – which is a two person team consisting of a medic and a crisis worker who have training and experience in the mental health field. They do patrols and respond to calls through 911, and have the tools for a non-violent resolution of crisis situations. There are also many similar models across Canada where a police officer and a social worker respond to calls – including the Yukon's program called "Car 867" 1 . To implement a program like this in Yellowknife, the GNWT must participate as it is responsible for public health, operates 911, and holds the RCMP contract. If elected, would you fund and implement a program like CAHOOTS or Car 867?

Yes, I would support a program similar to CAHOOTS in Yellowknife with the caveat that such programming does little to address the root causes of homelessness.

4. What actions and programs established so far do you think are working, and what needs to be done differently to address these issues of homelessness, addictions and mental health?

How would you prioritize or sequence the actions you feel are needed, and how would you balance these with other GNWT priorities?

As I have stated throughout my campaign, housing provides the foundation for much of what we value in our society. Family, employment, education, mental and physical health, safety, food security, are all predicated on having a place to call home. To think we can solve our education, healthcare, or cost of living challenges without first solving our housing crisis is misguided. I appreciate that there are many committed individuals at both the city and the GNWT trying to solve this very challenging issue. Street outreach, Lynn's Place, Spruce Bough and Home Base are, in my opinion, all success stories. However, more must be done to acknowledge that there are no quick fixes and that it took generations to get to this point and it will take us generations to make things right. Please see Question 2 above for a blueprint on how we can do this. And for those who believe my proposed initiatives are too costly, please see an essay on my webpage entitled 'Million Dollar Murray' by Malcolm Gladwell.