YUKON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS PLAN 2025-2029: DRAFT PLAN FRAMEWORK FOR CAB

Dec 18th, 2025

Yukon Anti-Poverty
COALITION
anti-pauvreté du Yukon

Yukon

WHAT WE'LL COVER TODAY

- Why an updated homelessness response plan is needed now

- What we learned from data, community input, and system experience

- How those insights shaped the draft plan and its four priorities

- What each priority is intended to advance at a system level

- How the priorities work together to strengthen the response

- What implementation will depend on and what comes next

ORG CODE

THE CONDITIONS SHAPING THIS PLAN

WHY THIS PLAN MATTERS NOW

- Homelessness in Yukon increasingly reflects long-term and chronic need, particularly in Whitehorse, placing sustained pressure on shelters, outreach, and housing programs

- More people continue to enter homelessness than exit to housing, indicating that the system is not keeping pace with demand

- The homelessness response system is carrying more pressure than it was designed for, with inconsistent pathways and limited capacity to respond to complex needs

- Reaching Home funding requires an updated five-year community homelessness plan

WHAT WE LEARNED

WHAT THE DATA TOLD US	WHAT THE PEOPLE TOLD US	WHAT THE SYSTEM TOLD US
PiT and BND show homelessness at its highest recorded level in Whitehorse, continuing a steady upward trend since 2018. **Chronic homelessness now represents most active cases**, and inflow into homelessness continues to exceed exits to housing	Survey responses consistently point to **affordability and housing insecurity as central pressures**, with common concerns including the ability to pay rent or utilities, safety, eviction risk, housing condition, and overcrowding	There was a strong sense of commitment, pride, and trusted relationships, alongside a shared recognition that the **system is stretched and carrying more need than it can reasonably hold**
Most people experiencing homelessness meet the definition of chronic homelessness and have complex needs, including **mental health challenges, substance use, and early experiences** of housing instability. First Nations peoples are significantly overrepresented across all datasets	Roughly one in three respondents **felt at risk of becoming unhoused in the next year** or were unsure about their housing stability, with renters and people in informal or temporary arrangements far more likely to feel at risk than homeowners	Many described a system with important programs and supports in place, but with **unclear or inconsistent pathways and transition**s, leaving people to manage movement between services on their own and making progress toward housing less predictable

WHAT THESE LEARNINGS POINT TO

- The homelessness response needs to be structured to support sustained, long-term, and complex need

- Strong programs and relationships need to be supported by clearer system structure and shared expectations

- Clearer coordination and follow-through are needed so people experience more predictable pathways toward housing

HOW THE PLAN RESPONDS

- **Strengthens the homelessness response system itself**, not just individual programs

- **Focuses the system on people with long-term and complex needs**, where pressure is greatest

- **Creates clearer pathways, shared expectations, and coordination**, so housing investments lead to better outcomes

- **Centers First Nations leadership and lived and living experience** in system design, decision-making, and accountability

WHAT THE PLAN DOES & DOES NOT ADDRESS

WHAT THIS PLAN DOES ADDRESS	WHAT THIS PLAN DOES NOT ADDRESS
How the **homelessness response system** is structured, coordinated, and governed	A detailed housing development or **capital investment plan**
Roles, pathways, and practices that influence how people **move through the system**	Capital **funding decisions** or construction timelines
Actions Yukon can take within existing and emerging resources	**Broader housing market** dynamics beyond the homelessness response system

WHAT THIS PLAN IS AIMING TO DO

- **Shift the system from managing pressure to reducing it**, by slowing inflow, improving exits, and preventing returns to homelessness

- **Turn existing programs into a more connected response**, so people experience clearer, more predictable movement toward housing

- **Create the conditions for accountability and follow-through**, so recommendations are implemented, tracked, and adjusted over time

- **Ensure future housing investments translate into real outcomes**, by preparing the system to use new housing as effectively as possible as it comes online

THE FOUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

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STRENGTHEN THE HOUSING-FOCUSED WORKFORCE AND SYSTEM PRACTICES

STRENGTHEN SYSTEM GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND COORDINATION

EMBED EQUITY AND CULTURAL SAFETY THROUGH FIRST NATIONS AND LIVED-EXPERIENCE LEADERSHIP

ADVANCE PREVENTION AND HOUSING STABILITY

PRIORITY 1: STRENGTHEN THE HOUSING-FOCUSED WORKFORCE AND SYSTEM PRACTICES

- **Strengthens housing-focused practice across the system**, while recognizing that crisis response will remain part of the homelessness response

- **Responds to workforce pressure created by high levels of chronic and complex homelessness**, where staff are often balancing immediate needs alongside housing outcomes

- **Establishes clearer expectations and shared approaches across shelters, outreach, and related programs**, reducing variation in how housing-focused work is delivered

- **Supports more consistent practice and follow-through**, so people experience clearer and more predictable pathways toward housing

WHAT STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 ADVANCES

| CLEARER HOUSING-FOCUSED EXPECTATIONS ACROSS THE SYSTEM	A WORKFORCE BETTER EQUIPED TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH LONG-TERM AND COMPLEX NEEDS	MORE PREDICTABLE PATHWAYS TOWARD HOUSING
Reducing variation in how housing-focused work is understood and delivered across shelters, outreach, and related programs	Ensuring staff have clearer guidance and shared approaches for working with people experiencing chronic and complex homelessness	Improving consistency and follow-through across programs so people experience clearer, more reliable movement toward housing over time

PRIORITY 2: STRENGTHEN SYSTEM GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND COORDINATION

- **Strengthens the governance and operational backbone of the homelessness response**, recognizing that coordination, access, and accountability structures must mature as the system grows

- **Responds to the need for stronger system-level mechanisms** to support collective decision-making, effective data use, and consistent movement toward housing outcomes

- **Establishes clearer, more consistent Coordinated Access across the system**, reducing duplication, delays, and missed connections between shelters, outreach, case management, and discharge partners

- **Formalizes shared leadership and accountability**, including defined CAB and intergovernmental roles and First Nations leadership in how data is governed and decisions are made

WHAT STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 ADVANCES

STRENGTHEN THE SYSTEMS DATA BACKBONE	ENSURING CONSISTEN ACCESS AND NAVIGATION	FORMALIZING ACCOUNTABILITY AND SYSTEM ALIGNMENT
Building consistent, system-wide use of HIFIS and performance reporting to support real-time flow management, outcomes-based accountability, and transparent decision-making	Reducing duplication, delays, and missed connections through shared Coordinated Access workflows, stronger care conferencing, and clear, plain-language navigation across access points	Strengthening CAB and intergovernmental roles, shared leadership with First Nations governments, and alignment across systems so decisions remain coordinated, transparent, and focused on housing outcomes
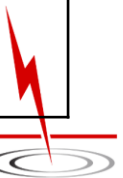
PRIORITY 3: EMBED EQUITY AND CULTURAL SAFETY THROUGH FIRST NATIONS AND LIVED-EXPERIENCE LEADERSHIP

- **Affirms equity and cultural safety as central to the integrity and effectiveness of Yukon's homelessness response**, building on the vital roles already played by First Nations governments, Indigenous service providers, and people with lived and living experience

- **Responds to gaps where shared leadership is not consistently reflected** in how programs operate, how decisions are made, or how people experience services

- **Strengthens structures that support equitable participation and leadership**, including deeper CAB partnerships with First Nations governments, stronger lived-experience leadership, and expanded culturally rooted and peer-led supports

- **Advances culturally grounded and trauma-informed system tools and practices**, including moving toward a First Nations–led assessment approach and strengthening workforce representation and leadership development

WHAT STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 ADVANCES

STRENGTHENING FIRST NATIONS AND INDIGENOUS PARTNERSHIP IN SYSTEM GOVERNANCE	EXPANDING CULTURALLY ROOTED AND PEER-LED SUPPORTS	ENSURING SYSTEM TOOLS AND WORKFORCE REFLECT YUKONS CULTURAL REALITIES
Deepening CAB collaboration with Yukon First Nations governments and Indigenous service providers so shared leadership, cultural protocols, and data sovereignty guide system decisions	Supporting First Nations–led cultural reconnection and peer-based programming, alongside lived-experience leadership that strengthens practice and improves service experience	Advancing trauma-informed, First Nations–led assessment and prioritization, strengthening First Nations workforce recruitment and leadership pathways, and co-developing a Yukon First Nations definition of homelessness to guide policy and practice

PRIORITY 4: ADVANCE PREVENTION AND HOUSING STABILITY

- **Responds to a housing market with limited affordability and scarce options**, where housing loss often leads to long and difficult pathways back to stability

- **Positions prevention as a homelessness-focused strategy**, targeting the people and situations most likely to lead to housing loss rather than general eviction support

- **Strengthens early, coordinated responses to housing instability**, including post-housing follow-up, tenancy stabilization, and structured diversion at system entry points

- **Recognizes the need for flexible, community-led prevention approaches**, particularly for rural and First Nations communities, shaped by their leadership and realities
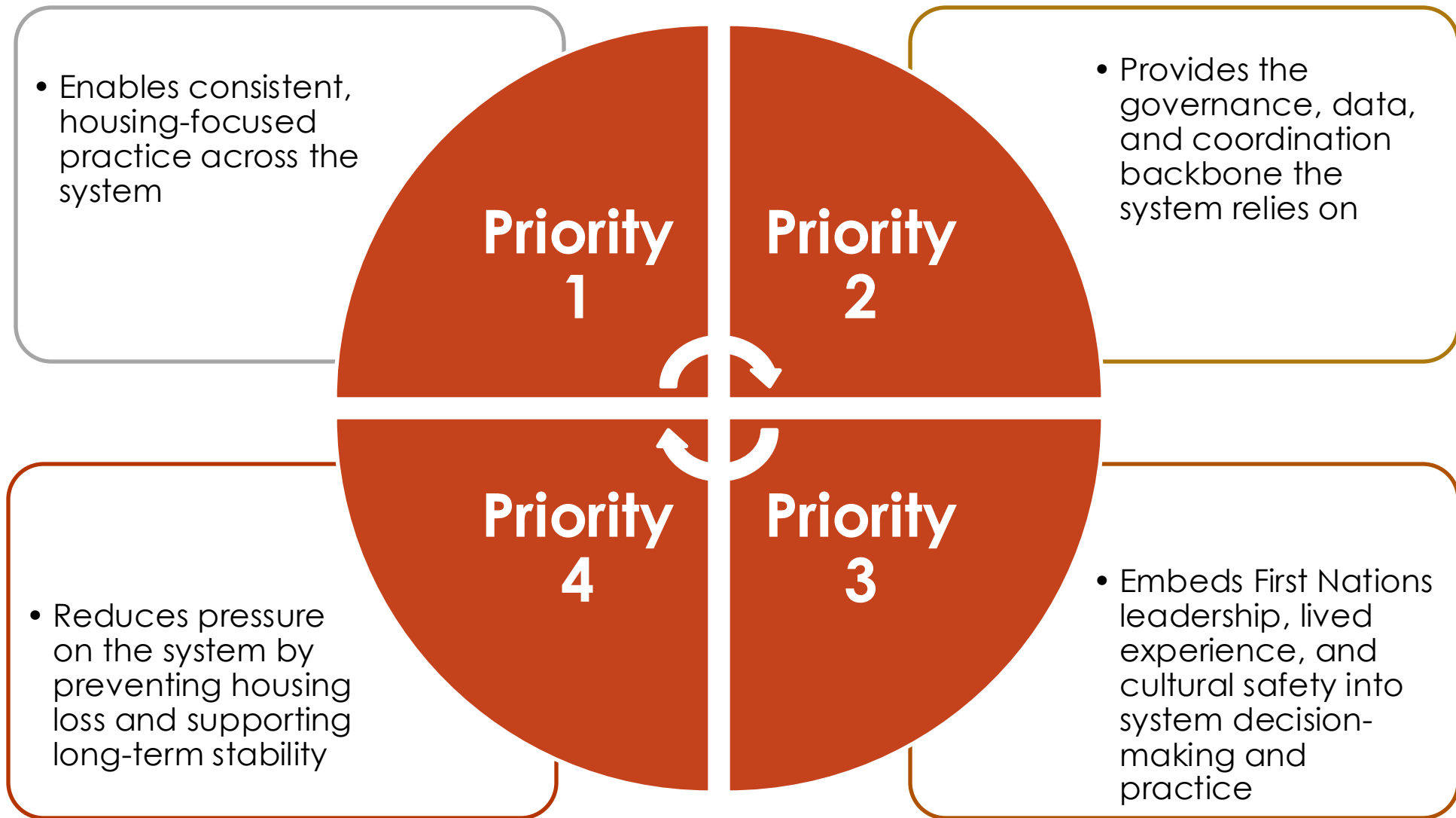
WHAT STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 ADVANCES

PREVENTING RETURNS TO HOMELESSNESS	STRENGTHENING SYSTEM-WIDE TENANCY STABILIZATION	REDUCING INFLOW INTO HOMELESSNESS THROUGH STRUCTURED PREVENTION
Reducing re-entry by strengthening post-housing supports, follow-up, and early intervention for people most at risk of losing housing	Ensuring consistent, rapid, and equitable tenancy stabilization supports are available across programs to address housing risks before crisis occurs	Embedding diversion and flexible crisis resolution approaches so shelters are used only when no safe alternative exists, including culturally grounded responses in rural and First Nations communities

HOW THE FOUR PRIORITIES WORK TOGETHER

- Enables consistent, housing-focused practice across the system

- Provides the governance, data, and coordination backbone the system relies on

Priority 1

Priority 2

Priority 4

Priority 3

- Reduces pressure on the system by preventing housing loss and supporting long-term stability

- Embeds First Nations leadership, lived experience, and cultural safety into system decision-making and practice

WHAT IMPLEMENTATION DEPENDS ON

1. **Clear ownership and follow-through on implementation**, including a strengthened role for the CAB to actively drive, monitor, and publicly report on progress

2. **Functioning system governance and alignment across governments**, supported by the intergovernmental advisory group to resolve barriers that individual programs or the CAB cannot address alone

3. **Strong system infrastructure to track progress and unblock delays**, including full HIFIS implementation, consistent Coordinated Access, and a performance dashboard that makes outcomes and bottlenecks visible

4. **Ongoing housing supply growth alongside system change**, recognizing that prevention, coordination, and practice improvements protect gains but do not replace the need for more supportive and deeply affordable housing

NEXT STEPS

- Incorporate final feedback from the CAB into the draft plan
- Integrate estimated housing needs into the plan
- Prepare two versions of an Executive Summary:
  - One version for the CAB, government partners, and official submission
  - One version for the broader community that also serves as a public-facing summary
- Confirm the CAB's role in driving implementation
- Move from planning to action

QUESTIONS