

Let Your Voice Be Heard: A Lived Experience Forum on Homelessness

Summary Report

April, 2023

Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our deep gratitude to all the participants of the Let Your Voice be Heard: a Lived Experience Forum on Homelessness. We recognize the immense challenges you face on a daily basis, and we are incredibly grateful for your willingness to join us and share your valuable insights at the Forum. We understand that navigating persistent issues can be extremely exhausting, and your presence and contributions have made a significant impact.

Your willingness to engage and provide first hand perspectives has been invaluable in shaping the discussions and outcomes of the Forum. Your courage, resilience, and willingness to share your experiences have helped create a space for meaningful dialogue and fostered a greater understanding of the challenges faced by individuals experiencing homelessness.

A special thank you goes out to the members of the Steering Committee, many of whom have lived experience of homelessness. We are incredibly grateful for your dedication and commitment in shaping this Forum and ensuring that it addresses the needs and concerns of those directly affected.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to Voices Influencing Change, the Safe at Home Society and Blood Ties 4 Directions. Without their support and collaboration, the successful execution of this Forum would not have been possible. Many thanks also to the dedicated group of elders and volunteers who were flexible and generous with their time and energy.

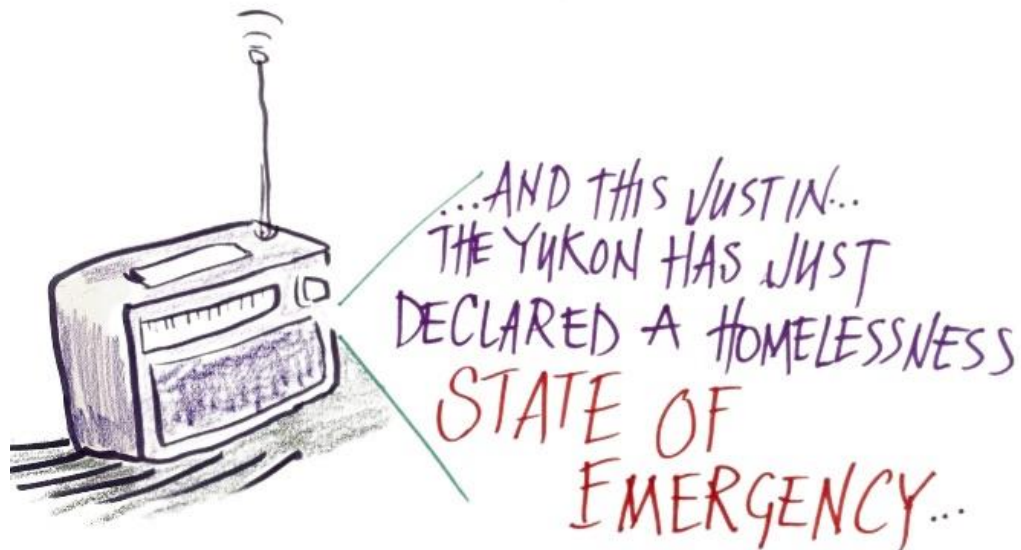
Lastly, we would like to thank the broader public for their receptiveness and engagement with the important issues and solutions discussed during the Forum. Your support and understanding play a vital role in raising awareness and fostering positive change.

Once again, we extend our sincere thanks to all those involved for their contributions, commitment, and belief that we can end homelessness in Whitehorse, one person at a time.



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Executive Summary

On March 13th, 2023 those most affected by the urgent state of homelessness in Whitehorse offered solutions to the housing crisis from their perspectives at the “Let Your Voice Be Heard: A Lived Experience Forum on Homelessness” at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre (KDCC). The forum was championed by people with lived experience and supported by Blood Ties Four Directions, the Safe at Home Society, and the Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, including Voices Influencing Change, a group trained in telling their stories and advocating for change. All of them together spearheaded the Forum.

About 30 volunteers, including peer mentors, counsellors, elders, and firekeepers, helped to facilitate the event. Around 40 people with lived and living experience of homelessness participated and shared their stories of experiencing housing challenges in Whitehorse and in communities. People were also asked how they wanted their voices to be heard and to provide recommendations and solutions on how to best address the housing challenges based on their experiences.

The purpose of the forum was to provide a safe and welcoming space for people to come together to create awareness and solutions by sharing, collaborating, and healing through storytelling and visioning for a future where no one has to experience homelessness. Throughout the day, people demonstrated incredible strength and wisdom while sharing their stories and listening to others speak about their own experiences.

*“Don’t forget what we shared today came from our heart. It is our strength”
– forum participant*

The agenda for the day consisted of an opening prayer, a sacred fire, a lived experience panel on Blood Ties Four Direction’s report “A Place to Call Home,” breakout sessions and storytelling, a graphic facilitation, a collective brainstorming session on next steps, lunch and refreshments, door prizes, an open-house, and a closing fire.

The forum was celebrated as a success. It highlighted the URGENT need for change as people are experiencing devastating and often deadly situations. People with lived experience are clear they want to be included in decision-making and policy change, and they want to see action now. People were generous with their feedback and offered innovative ideas for change in several different topic areas, including:

- Emergency Shelter
- Hidden Homelessness
- Hotel/Motel as Temporary/Emergency Housing
- Supportive Housing
- Social Housing
- Private Market Rental Housing
- Housing and Supports for Seniors
- Next Steps for the Safe at Home Plan
- Formation of a Lived Experience Council



People's stories and recommendations are summarized below:

Emergency Shelter

Participants shared concerning stories of experiencing violence, drug overdoses, deaths, discrimination, and feeling unsafe at the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter. People discussed how there are limited Indigenous supports or sober spaces available, making it difficult for them to get the help they need. They described having difficulties trying to access a bed when they needed to rest and the struggles of trying to stay sober once they left treatment and ended up back at the shelter. Participants recommended creating more sober space options with more culturally appropriate supports available. This includes hiring First Nation front-line staff and peer support workers. People also want to see more treatment and harm reduction supports available at the shelter for people who do use drugs to reduce the risk of overdose and stigma associated with addiction.

Hidden Homelessness

People shared stories of experiencing hidden homelessness because there are no affordable housing options and they would rather sleep in their car than go to the shelter. People described having to live in their vehicles or structures not intended for human habitation, or staying on a friend's couch because the wait for housing is so long and they have run out of options. Participants recommended increasing outreach supports to better reach people where they are at, which means reaching them directly in the community as a way to prevent people from falling through the cracks and to ensure they know about the services available to them.

Hotel/Motel

People shared troubling stories of experiencing dangerous and unsafe living conditions at hotels, and discussed how hotels should not be used to supplement the lack of affordable housing in the Yukon. Participants recommended that the government take action and prevent business owners from profiting off the housing crisis and to implement minimum standards for all hotel operators to ensure people are treated with respect and have access to basic amenities like laundry, heat, hot water, garbage collection, and safety.

Supportive Housing

Participants shared similar stories of experiencing violence and drug activities in supportive housing. Participants discussed not getting the support or care they needed and felt there should be more support staff available. They recommended that more staff be Indigenous or be required to take mandatory training on the impacts of residential schools and colonialism. Participants recommend having different supportive housing models for youth, seniors, couples, men, and people who are trying to stay sober as "Housing First" is not a "one-size fits all" solution.

Social Housing

People with lived experience shared their challenges with trying to access social housing in the Yukon. Participants described feeling confused with how to navigate the application process and did not receive any information about how long the wait for housing would be or where to get housing in the meantime. People shared feelings of hopelessness and felt there is no accountability for social housing landlords as they aren't working to solve the housing crisis. For people who did



receive social housing, they said they never received any housing supports and described being evicted without any reason with nowhere to go. People recommended social housing landlords be more transparent with their application policies and remove unnecessary application barriers, and to offer more emergency housing support options for people who face evictions from social housing.

Private Market Rental Housing

Participants described many challenges with trying to secure rental housing in the private market. People shared stories of experiencing discrimination from landlords, unfair evictions, and getting little to no support from the Residential Tenancies Office (RTO). Participants shared stories of having to spend their food money on the high cost of rent and making the difficult decision to give up a pet in order to find a place to live. Participants recommended there be more protections for tenants, and recommended establishing better accountability structures for landlords who break the law or treat tenants unfairly. Additionally, participants recommended there be more financial supports and rental supplements available to help with the high cost of rent so they do not have to choose between a roof over their head and feeding themselves and their families.

Housing and Supports for Seniors

Participants shared their challenges with navigating housing and services once they turned 65. People discussed how there are a lack of transitional supports available for people who are aging and there are no housing options for seniors or elders who are cognitatively and physically declining, or for couples where one partner may be too young to qualify for seniors' housing. Participants recommend having more long-term holistic and transitional support workers and social workers that help seniors with their health and social care needs as they age. Participants also recommended creating more affordable housing options for seniors and elders with different care needs where eligibility isn't simply based on age.

Safe at Home Plan: Next Steps

The forum also included a breakout session on the potential next steps for the Safe at Home Plan. Participants recommended revising the Plan and highlighting the voices of people with lived experience. The Plan should also be accessible to all community members and be easy to understand and have clear and measurable goals.

Lived Experience Council

During the forum, the concept of establishing a Lived and Living Experience Council was presented to participants. The feedback received regarding this proposal was largely positive, with many recognizing the importance of having a dedicated council to represent the voices and experiences of individuals who have lived or are currently living through homelessness and related challenges. The concept of a Lived Experience Council flows from the Reaching Home federal funding strategy and the work of a Community Advisory Board

It was acknowledged that further discussions are necessary to determine the council's composition and representation. It is crucial to ensure that the council includes strong voices that can effectively advocate for change and address the concerns faced by individuals staying in hotels, shelters, or experiencing unstable housing situations such as couch surfing or camping rough.



Introduction

To hear directly from those most affected by the urgent state of homelessness, and to give them the opportunity to offer solutions, a forum was held on March 13th 2023 at the KDCC for people with lived experience. It was organized and supported by Blood Ties Four Directions, the Safe at Home Society, Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition, and Voices Influencing Change.

Throughout the day, people came together to create awareness of the urgent need for action to address and prevent homelessness and to generate solutions and ideas through storytelling and visioning for a community where everyone has a safe place to live. Throughout the day, people demonstrated incredible strength and wisdom while sharing their stories and listening to their peers share their own experiences.

Participants were asked what their hopes for the day were, and people with lived experience were clear they want to use their collective voices, strengths, and specialized knowledge to drive change, and that its time to act with a sense of urgency. Participants felt that it is time to start investing in people with lived experience to become leaders, board members, and form committees to advocate for community-based actions and solutions. Throughout the day, participants shared their stories and insights from their perspectives of lived experience of homelessness and housing challenges among several different formats, summarized below.

Panel Discussion: A Place to Call Home

The forum included a panel of four people with lived experience, including some who participated in the *A Place to Call Home: Research and Recommendations Regarding the Housing Crisis in Whitehorse Report*. The panel paid tribute to individuals who participated and have since passed away. The panel was moderated by Blood Ties Four Directions, and panel members were asked to share their insights on their experiences of homelessness.

Breakout Sessions

Participants were invited to gather into smaller breakout groups and choose a table to share their stories and ideas for change on one of the following topics:

- Emergency Shelter
- Hidden Homelessness
- Hotels/Motels as temporary emergency shelter
- Supportive Housing
- Social Housing
- Private Market Rental Housing
- Housing and Supports for Seniors
- Safe at Home Plan: Next Steps
- Lived Experience Council

An additional table with the topic of “Other” was available to participants; feedback shared at that table has been synthesized and combined into the other topic areas.



Forum volunteers facilitated these breakout discussions and documented participant responses. Breakout group participants were asked the following questions:

- What is/was your experience?
- What is/was the most challenging?
- What are the solutions?

A Visual Interpretation

Whitehorse based Graphic Facilitator, Heidi Marion, created a mural with images depicting people's stories and experiences captured throughout the day. Images captured throughout the day are presented throughout this report in various sections.

What We Heard

Throughout the day, people shared an abundance of knowledge and expertise and emphasized the urgent need for immediate action. Through powerful storytelling, participants were able to create awareness of the realities of what they have endured and how the community can continue to move forward with healing. The stories and solutions for change captured throughout the day are summarized in the following section.

Panel Discussion



Panelists were asked four important and personal questions on the current housing crisis and how it has impacted them and their families. Panel members courageously shared their experiences and their expectations for how their voices can influence positive change.

How has the housing crisis impacted you and your families?

Panelists shared the dehumanizing impacts of living on the streets and how experiencing homelessness leads to increased addictions and the loss of self-respect. Panelists described the mental toll being homeless takes on an individual. For those panel members who did find housing, they described

experiencing discrimination and harassment from their landlords and were evicted for no reason and with nowhere to go.

What are the barriers to affordable/safe housing in Yukon?

Panel members said the high cost of rent and the lack of affordable housing options are the biggest barriers for people. Panelists explained the challenges with trying to find housing in a town with



so many “illegal” suites where social assistance will not cover the rent. Panel members discussed experiencing extreme financial hardship by not having enough money to cover the cost of rent or a damage deposit, and how there are no rental supplement or financial aid options available to help with the high cost of renting in Whitehorse.

What improvement in services/support are needed in Yukon?

Panelists discussed the importance of having outreach programs that check-in and support people. Not everyone can navigate the difficult processes of filling out forms and access to public or private transportation to get to needed services is limited.

Panel members discussed the importance of having transparency and fairness within existing housing programs. People in need of housing often do not know how long it will take to receive housing, or how decisions are made on who gets housing, and they are often met with poor customer service when trying to get a straight answer from social housing landlords.

Panelists also discussed how there needs to be more advocacy for NGOs and First Nation governments to have more programming and supports available to those experiencing homelessness.

Why do you think this Forum today is important?

Panel members discussed the importance of getting the input and opinions of people with lived experience because their views and experiences are important influences for government decision-makers. Panelists discussed the importance of using their voices for action, and they are tired of talking without seeing any results. Panel members also want to use the forum as an opportunity to sharpen their communication skills to be effective in having an impact on the next steps.

Breakout Sessions

Emergency Shelter

People’s Stories

Individuals described upsetting experiences related to the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter. Participants discussed how the emergency shelter is a very unsafe place for most people and they regularly witness racism, violence, drug overdoses, and deaths. People state there are no separate spaces for those who are sober and those who are not, creating a “powder-keg” of potential issues and fights between guests happen every day. People described witnessing people from out of town coming to the shelter to bully and harass other shelter guests, and the shelter having no rules or ways to keep guests safe.

People shared they often witness shelter guests using drugs in the bathroom or in their rooms, which are unmonitored, and they feel staff are not properly trained on how to respond to overdoses. People shared stories of leaving treatment with nowhere to go other than the shelter and relapsing immediately because they are surrounded by people using drugs and alcohol.

Participants shared stories of being discriminated against for being Indigenous or having addiction or mental health issues. People said there are no programs or culturally appropriate supports available, and staff do not treat shelter guests with respect.



Participants discussed trying to access a bed during the day because they needed rest, but were unable to until late at night, but also witnessed other shelter guests receiving special treatment with bed assignments.

Solutions for Change

- Better expectations and policies on behavior standards that are flexible to the needs of shelter guests
- More staff training on de-escalation and conflict resolution
- More staff training on how to respond to overdoses (e.g., naloxone, oxygen masks, addressing stigma)
- Mandatory staff training on the impacts of residential schools and colonialism
- Elder guidance and more First Nation front-line shelter staff
- First Nation peer support workers
- Cultural supports that focus on grief, healing and the effects of trauma (e.g., nursing care, counselling, mental health supports)
- A separate shelter for people to be sober and one for people to use drugs and alcohol safely
- More trauma-informed care
- Consistent and predictable shelter policies surrounding bed assignment and shelter rules
- A separate recovery space for people leaving detox/treatment to receive after-care

Hidden Homelessness

People's Stories

People shared stories of experiencing hidden homelessness because there are no affordable housing options. People described having to live in their vehicles or structures not intended for human habitation, or staying on a friend's couch because the wait for housing is so long and they are fed up. People explained that living in your car is sometimes more desirable than living in a shelter or a hotel because you have more independence and privacy. People discussed the challenges of overstaying their welcome with friends and family, and how this can lead to family breakdown which adds distress to an already upsetting situation.

Participants felt there are a lack of outreach supports for people experiencing hidden homelessness, and as a community we are not doing a good job of taking care of each other. Participants discussed the importance of meeting people where they are at and treating others with dignity, despite their circumstances. People shared that when folks receiving meaningful support, they can in turn help and support others.



Solutions for Change



- More outreach supports for those experiencing hidden homelessness to help people learn about available services and how to find housing
- Regular check-ins for folks who may be “under the radar”
- After-hours outreach supports
- More centralized access to housing support
- More housing units and choices for elders, seniors, people who are sober
- Allow people to occupy their land without barriers
- More solutions that connect people to their community
- Changes to social assistance rules so you do not lose your rent portion if you make more money

Hotels/Motels as Temporary Housing or Emergency Shelter

People’s Stories

People were asked to share their stories of staying in hotels and motels in Whitehorse. Most stayed in hotels because there were no other housing options available to them. People shared stories of having to pay excessive amounts of monthly shelter costs and having to borrow first and last month’s rent when they were already in financial trouble. People described experiencing bedbug infestations, diseases, black mold, no heat, or no hot water. They did not have regular access to clean towels or linens or cooking facilities, and people described witnessing feces, dirty needles, and excessive garbage in the hallways and common areas. Access to basic necessities such as laundry were often too expensive and the laundry facilities were usually broken.

People stated they did not feel safe in hotels as they lived among constant drug use, drug dealing, theft, overcrowding, and violence. People described parties all night long and they had to tolerate the noise because hotel staff did little to address the ongoing safety or nuisance issues. People discussed experiencing discrimination from hotel staff and not being able to have guests or their pets in their room.

People said hotels were not safe for children or youth, and that it should be illegal for hotels to charge more than market rent each month when you get so little in return.

Solutions for Change

- Better security and training for hotel/motel staff that is sensitive the needs of vulnerable people
- Rules and laws for hotels to be only used as a last resort and for the short-term
- New laws that prevent hotel/motel owners to profit off the misfortunes of others
- Yukon Government purchase hotels/motels to ensure minimum safety standards are upheld
- More protections and rights for people living in hotels for less than six months
- Rent control for hotel rates to prevent price gouging
- Hotels must allow pets



Supportive Housing

People's Stories

Participants shared their stories and experiences with supportive housing in Whitehorse. They felt the existing low barrier supportive housing options are not safe and the “Housing First” model is not a “one size fits all” approach. People discussed experiencing racism and discrimination from the front-line staff and said there are power structures within the existing organizations.

Participants felt staff turn-over in supportive housing buildings was very high and many staff failed to follow-up or offer the supports people need. People said they have to tell their story many times to new staff when trying to get help with things like finding a job, accessing transportation, or getting help with maintaining their units.

People shared stories of waiting a long time to receive supportive housing, only to be quickly evicted when they had guests over. Some felt this was discrimination by staff and they felt they were not given a chance to succeed.

Solutions for Change

- More supportive housing options for youth, men, sex workers, seniors, couples, and people who are sober
- Supportive housing should allow more than one pet
- Supportive housing staff should have mandatory training on residential schools and the impacts of colonization
- Hire paid First Nation peer support workers to support residents and to educate other staff
- Hire more First Nation support workers to ensure residents can get the support they need
- Training and supports for residents on how to maintain a home
- Supports that focus on family reunification and cultural re-integration if a family was involved with child welfare
- Transportation supports to help residents get to and from appointments, grocery stores, doctors' appointments, etc.
- On the land training and mentoring
- More on-site community building

You can't
contribute to
society when
you are just
trying to
survive.



Social Housing

People's Stories



People described their experiences living in social housing and trying to get social housing. They experienced red-tape and rigid rules from social housing landlords. People described many difficulties with trying to navigate the application process, some felt that social housing staff did not take the time to recognize people's individual housing circumstances and why they needed housing and that the "rating" system is dehumanizing. People said having to submit a Notice of Assessment (NOA) is an immediate barrier that does not accurately reflect a person's current financial situation, and there is no transparency with how applications for housing are processed or how long the wait for housing is. People shared feelings of hopelessness and felt there is no accountability for social housing landlords who aren't working to solve the housing crisis.

Participants described receiving limited to no supports once they did receive housing and highlighted how there are no housing support options in the communities. People feel that housing support for seniors is very limited and that seniors need more options to help with the transition of aging. People also discussed how there is a lack of youth housing or options for women engaged in sex work, creating a large gap for people who really need it.

Solutions for Change

- More affordable housing units accessible to everyone (youth, seniors, singles, and couples)
- Emergency and short-term housing options aside from the shelter or hotels
- More transparency with the estimated wait-times, who gets prioritized, and which units are available
- Social housing landlords need accountability measures on how they are handling the housing crisis
- Policy changes to remove barriers such as confusing application processes, having to submit a Notice of Assessment (NOA), and residency requirements
- More emergency rental supplements
- "Drop-in" housing supports attached to social housing
- Transportation options so housing outside of downtown is more accessible

Private Market Rental Housing

People's Stories

People had many stories to share when asked about their experiences with housing in the private market. People described how difficult it is to get into the rental market in Whitehorse because it is very competitive and extremely expensive. People shared stories of how landlords do not respond to their inquiries, and if a landlord does respond they often refuse to rent their units if they discover someone is receiving social assistance. People described how difficult it is to find places that allow pets and how social assistance does not cover the cost of units that are not considered "legal".



People shared stories of being discriminated against if they identified as First Nation, being evicted without cause, and having little to no protections under the Residential Landlord Tenancy Act (RLTA). When they did seek assistance from the Residential-Tenant Office (RTO), many found it difficult to understand or that the mediation supports were usually in favour of the landlord.

People shared how challenging it is to pay for the incredibly high costs of rent and utilities with no financial supports or options. People said they often have to use their food money to cover the cost of rent, or make the difficult choice of giving up a pet to get housing as so few landlords allow pets.

Solutions for Change

- More education and training for landlords on their rights and responsibilities
- Better mediation supports for vulnerable people facing eviction
- A governing body where people can report landlords who break the law or treat tenants unfairly
- More financial supports for the high cost of rent and damage deposits
- Utility grants in the winter
- Supports for people looking for market rents (e.g., how to respond to a rental advertisement, how to talk to a landlord, reference letters, etc.)
- Supports for people to maintain their housing and uphold their lease agreements
- Portable rental supplements that move from one unit to another unit
- More supports for tenants on how to navigate the RLTA
- New programs such as “Rent to Own” or a landlord incentive program to build more affordable housing
- More laws on allowing pets

Housing and Supports for Seniors

People’s Stories

Participants shared their challenges with navigating housing and services once they turned 65. Participants shared stories of not knowing where to go to get help and how stressful and complicated it is to transition off of social assistance once you are no longer eligible. People discussed how there are a lack of transitional supports available for people who are aging and there are no housing options for seniors or elders who are cognitively and physically declining, or for couples where one partner may be too young to qualify for seniors housing.

Solutions for Change

- More social and support workers to assist with long-term planning associated with aging
- Supports should be holistic and include, income, health, social, and housing supports
- More housing options for seniors with different care needs
- More elders housing with traditional programming and wellness supports
- Programming and support where youth are helping seniors



Safe at Home Plan: Next Steps

As part of the forum, there was a small breakout session on the next steps for the Safe at Home Plan. The Safe at Home Plan was released in 2017 and is a whole community response to end and prevent homelessness in Whitehorse. The Safe at Home Society is leading discussions with community partners, including people with lived experience, to revise the Plan. Forum participants were asked to share their thoughts on what a successful plan to end and prevent homelessness looks like to them, their responses are summarized below:

- It's written in plain language, has no acronyms, and is simple to understand
- Clearly outlines the goals and has prioritized actions
- Has clear methods of knowing when you have achieved a goal
- Reflects the stories of those who have lived it
- Includes action items that support people to recover from the experience of homelessness once they receive housing
- Includes a broad awareness of the housing challenges faced by marginalized people
- Does not “number” people as part of a Plan (e.g., includes more than statistics)
- Is transparent with how goals are achieved and how decisions are made
- Includes supports and training for private market landlords who want to work with people who have housing and other challenges
- Is drafted in a way that supports each other

Lived Experience Council

The question of the formation of a Lived & Living Experience Council was presented to participants during one of the breakout sessions. The feedback to move the council forward was positive, although there was further discussion needed on who would be on the council. The group put forward the concern that there needed to be strong voices involved who could take the urgent message of

homelessness to government. The group also had concerns about drug dealers taking advantage of people who are precariously housed in hotels, couch surfing, or staying in shelters. People also discussed the issue of drug dealers who take over homes by keeping the tenant in supply or by force and wondered if a Lived Experience Council could offer solutions to issues like this.



Potential Next Steps

Participants were asked about potential next steps following the forum and ideas on how to use the KDCC for a follow-up event in May 2023 or a future date. Participants were also asked who needs to hear about the results from the forum and how the voices of people with lived experience can be heard. The following is a summary of people's thoughts and ideas.

Who Needs to Hear This?

Elected Officials	First Nations	Government Organizations	Service Providers	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Premier Pillai Health Minister McPhee Prime Minister Trudeau Mayor Cabott and City Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) All Chiefs Senior officials and front-line workers from FN Health, Social Services, and Housing departments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yukon Housing RCMP/EMS Department of Justice (YG) Health and Social Services (YG) Crown-Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) All Yukon Municipalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing providers Child and Youth Advocate Doctors and nurses Teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business owners Students People with lived experience of homelessness Hotel owners Everyone in the community

People were asked for their ideas on how they hoped information from the day could be used and what they would like to see as a follow up event in May. The following is a summary of those ideas.

- Prepare a booklet that shares our stories with decision-makers to influence policy change
- Declare a homelessness and housing emergency
- Have an addictions awareness and grief forum that focuses on the impacts on homelessness
- Have a fundraising gala
- Host a First Nations housing forum that includes Chiefs, housing and health staff, and citizens
- Training events for skill building such as home maintenance and how to talk to landlords
- An opportunity to teach and share our history



How Can Our Voices Be Heard?

The following are quotes from participants on how they feel their voices can be heard:

“Sing, dance, and laugh”

“Sharing our stories”

“Use our voices”

“Move forward together with our hearts”

“Stand strong and give each other strength to be whole”

“Recognize the power of voices”

“Remember that we are not less than”



A Visual Representation of Our Stories

Local Graphic Facilitator, Heidi Marion, captured people's stories, experiences, and ideas throughout the forum, displayed below.

For more information, and an update on next steps, please contact projects@yapc.ca or ed@yapc.ca. You can also call (867) 334 9317.

