

## **Yukon Liberals Response to Yukon Anti-Poverty Coalition Questions**

**How would you reduce the gap between the Living Wage and the minimum wage, which currently sits at \$11.07?**

In order to decrease the wage required to live in the Yukon, the Yukon Liberals will invest in affordable housing, reduce business taxes, support local food production, and prioritize education, skills training, and upgrading. Reducing taxes on businesses, particularly small businesses, will help create investments in local jobs and local training opportunities. Collectively, these investments will create local jobs, reduce the cost of living, and improve the professional qualifications of Yukon workers.

**If elected, how will you ensure there is sufficient supply of affordable housing for all citizens?**

The Yukon Liberal Party will take crucial steps to address the initial purchase requirements and ongoing costs associated with home ownership, enhancing low income housing options across Yukon. We will ensure that all communities are engaged in the process, so that affordable housing outside of Whitehorse is also considered. Importantly, we will prioritize federal funding towards the creation of affordable housing and work with communities to keep land banks affordable, collaborating with the private sector to develop strategies for incentivizing investment in affordable housing – including rental property.

**Will your party develop supported housing that inclusive to everyone who needs it?**

The Yukon Liberal Party will work with stakeholders, governments, and government departments to develop supported living, including aging in place. We will work with Yukoners, health professionals, and stakeholders in identifying potential opportunities to enhance supported housing opportunities and review existing options if elected to government. Furthermore, we will establish a community-based housing retrofit program that will ensure that housing is not only inclusive, but also provides adequate living conditions for those in need.

**What will your party do to end homelessness?**

The Yukon Liberal Party's vision is to end homelessness in the territory. Affordable and accessible housing continues to remain an issue in the Yukon, and if elected, the Yukon Liberals will work to enhance low income housing options across the territory. Furthermore, our housing retrofit program to upgrade existing housing stock and work with communities to create available land banks to help keep land prices affordable. Importantly, we will also prioritize federal funding towards the creation of affordable housing in Whitehorse and the communities.

**Will implementing the Action Plan be a priority for your party?**

The Yukon Liberal Party views housing as a human right. If elected this November, our party will review the implementation of the Action Plan and work with stakeholders, governments, and community organizations to address homelessness in the territory.

**What are the top 5 ways your party will eliminate food insecurity in the Yukon?**

We believe that increasing food security is necessary for the financial and mental well-being of Yukoners. Driven by this belief, the Yukon Liberals will work to eliminate food insecurity through affordable housing options and expanding the agriculture industry to be support more sustainable local food options. This means:

- upgrading the existing supply of affordable housing stock;
- prioritizing federal funding towards the creation of affordable housing;
- investing in agriculture, food storage, processing, and community-based greenhouse and farming projects;
- incentivizing local food production; and
- establishing benchmarks and targets to move towards greater food self-sufficiency.

**Would you raise Social Assistance rates to reflect the rising costs of food and shelter in Yukon?**

The Yukon Liberal is always open to using evidence-based decision-making to influence the policy process. If elected to government, we will examine Social Assistance rates as part of the regular review process and determine whether the rates should be raised.



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**Would you implement a Basic Annual Income pilot in the Yukon?**

The Yukon Liberal Party recognizes that the long-term well-being and quality of life of all Yukoners is integral to our success as a society. We believe in taking care of each other and giving a voice to everyone, especially our most vulnerable. If elected to government, we are interested in reviewing the current array of social programs available and using of evidence-based policy-making to determine whether we need to change our social support systems. At this time, we have not made specific commitments in relation to a Basic Annual Income pilot in the Yukon, but are interested in pursuing potential programs aimed at decreasing poverty.

**What changes would you make to the regulations policies to better support those who are accessing Social Assistance?**

If elected, our party will examine the regulations policies pertaining to Social Assistance and collaborate with stakeholders, municipalities, and government officials to determine which regulations may require amending.