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## Building Safety Together- A Visit From Fire Chief Jason Arns

On February 24, 2026, we had the distinct pleasure of welcoming our new Fire Chief, Jason Arns, along with his senior team, to tour our facilities, particularly the impressive new Aven Pavilion. AVENS Chief Operations Officer, Steven Nicholas, took the lead during this visit and recently shared his reflections on the day with our management team. This article reflects his thoughts and words used...

***“You guys are doing GREAT!”***

*Yellowknife Fire Chief, Jason Arns*

From the moment the team arrived, it was clear that excitement filled the air. Steven noted how the group was captivated by our facilities, expressing their delight with audible “ooooo” and “ahhhhs” as they explored the Pavilion, Cottages, and Manor. It was nice to witness their genuine appreciation for what we have built.

During the tour, an essential topic of discussion was emergency preparedness. Steven and Fire Chief Arns talked about the critical protocols our tenants should follow when the fire alarm sounds. The primary takeaway was clear: residents should **shelter in place**, moving only if a fire is detected in their unit or if instructed by authorized personnel. Fire Chief Arns also provided valuable feedback regarding our Fire Safety Plan, highlighting that some sections need updating. Some of this information would be vital for emergency response teams, and we will work to ensure it is included.



Members of the Yellowknife Fire Department, including Fire Chief Jason Arns, Rob Andrews and Jamie Stringer being greeted by all of AVENS Chief Officers on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026



The Fire Chief expressed admiration for our **Central Emergency Stations** and the visibility of safety equipment throughout our buildings.

One of the key messages from Fire Chief Arns was the importance of practicing fire drills, especially for residents who may require assistance during an emergency. He emphasized that the goal should be "vertical movement" to the next safe zone instead of evacuating to an off-site location. This approach aligns with modern safety practices and helps ensure everyone's well-being. As President/CEO I can assure you will see more activity around fire drills in 2026 onward.

At the end of the tour, Fire Chief Arns expressed his appreciation for our efforts, stating, "**You guys are doing GREAT!**" This encouraging feedback reflects the hard work and dedication of our entire team, reaffirming that we are creating one of the safest facilities he has ever visited.



Current members of the Yellowknife Fire

Department- photo credit City of Yellowknife Facebook

## It's important for you to know what to do in an emergency

As we look ahead, we invite all independent housing tenants to join us for a more formal sit-down on **March 10 and 11 from 7-8 PM** in the Pavilion dining room hall. This will be a fantastic opportunity to meet Chief Arns in person, ask any questions you may have, and review our fire safety plan for AVENS. (See Community Corner for more information)

## Legal Insights- A Stronger AVENS Workforce

This past week, I had the pleasure of attending the McLennan Ross 2025 **Labour & Employment Year in Review** seminar, and I was delighted to have our Chief People Officer, Lindsey Dwojak, join me. This event has become a staple for me over the years, and it's always a fantastic opportunity to do a deep dive into the world of Canadian employment law.



The seminar is particularly valuable as it offers a retrospective analysis of recent case law

covering a wide range of topics, including employment rights, human rights, arbitration, and privacy issues. This year, we were fortunate to hear from some of the top-notch legal minds at McLennan Ross: Michelle Theriault, Christopher Buchanan, and Natasha Saunders. Their expertise brought a wealth of knowledge to the table, making it not just informative but also engaging.

As senior management, staying abreast of these developments is crucial. The seminar provided us with essential insights into how to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of labour law. The ability to ask questions and interact directly with these experts really solidified our understanding of current case law and helped us identify potential pitfalls that could affect our workforce.

## Today's Presenters



Michelle Theriault



Christopher Buchanan



Natasha Saunders

It's reassuring to know that we're not just keeping up with changes but actively preparing ourselves to foster a safe and supportive work environment for everyone at AVENS. After all, a well-informed team is a strong team, n'est pas?

## Dancing To Community Rythm – Bella Beats

We had the absolute joy of welcoming back the Yellowknife **Bella Beats** high-performance dance

troupe to AVENS, and what a wonderful event it was!

On February 26, 2026, over 40 talented young performers graced the stage in front of a delighted audience in Aven Manor.



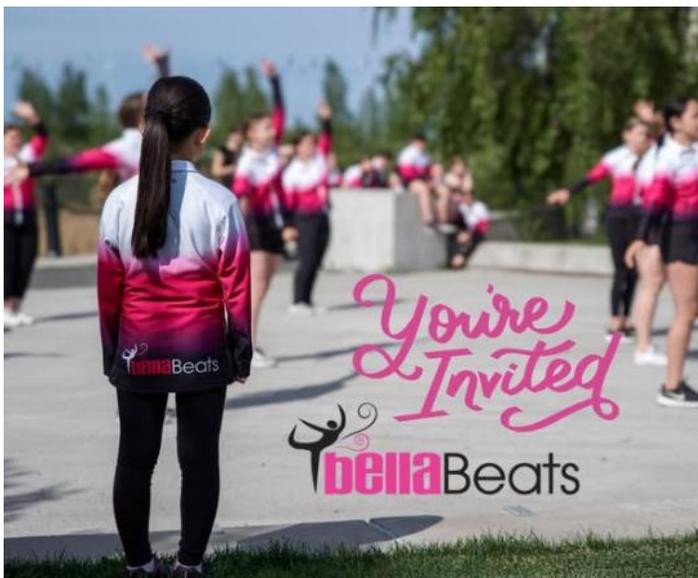
The energy in the room was electric as these gifted dancers showcased their incredible talent and passion for performance.

It was incredible to see the connection they built with our residents, reminding all of us the power of community and the joy that art can bring to our lives.



We cannot thank these young performers and their dedicated coaching staff enough for taking the time to share their gifts with our elders. The smiles, laughter, and joy they brought to our residents were truly priceless. You could feel the warmth and appreciation in the air, and it's moments like these that remind us of the beautiful connections we can foster across generations.

We're already looking forward to their next visit and can't wait to see what they have in store for us next time!



Thank you, Bella Beats, for sharing your beautiful light with us (FaceBook photo credit)

## Community Corner

**Door PRIZES**

### FIRE SAFETY SAVES LIVES

Be Prepared. Stay Safe.

**SAFETY FIRST SESSIONS**  
AVENS & the Fire Chief present:  
**Safety First Sessions**  
Learn what you should do when you here a fire alarm or have a fire in your unit.

- Don't miss the door prizes — attend for your chance to win!

**SESSION DATES**

- March 10<sup>th</sup> & March 11<sup>th</sup> from 7pm-8pm In the Pavilion Dining HALL

**ESSENTIAL FIRE SAFETY TIPS**

- Keep fire exits clear at all times
- Never block sprinklers or alarms
- Do not overload electrical outlets
- Store flammable materials properly
- Report damaged wiring immediately

**Safety is Everyone's Responsibility**

**AVENS-A COMMUNITY FOR SENIORS**

## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CAR, TRUCK AND BIKE SHOW

**Saturday June 20, 2026**  
**11:00 am-3:00 pm**  
**5710 50<sup>th</sup> Ave.**

To register your vehicle, or if you would like to be a sponsor of this event, email  
Lindsey\_Dwojak@avensseniors.com or call (867) 920-2443 ext 105