



## AVENS - A Community for Seniors

Owners of:  
Aven Manor  
long term care

Aven Cottages  
dementia care

Aven Court/Aven Ridge/  
Aven Pavilion  
independent housing

Baker Community Centre  
wellness

Suite 1  
5710 – 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
YELLOWKNIFE, NT  
X1A 1G1  
Tel: (867) 920-2443  
Fax: (867) 873-9915  
Website:  
[www.avensseniors.com](http://www.avensseniors.com)

# For Immediate Release

## AVENS A Community for Seniors Honoured with 2025 Canada's Volunteer Awards

Yellowknife, NWT – May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026- AVENS A Community for Seniors is proud to announce that we have been recognized with a **Special Mention for Social Innovation as part of the 2025 Canada's Volunteer Awards**, presented by the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Jobs and Families. This accolade highlights the significant contributions of our Volunteer Board of Directors in addressing the urgent need for affordable housing for seniors in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2026/04/the-government-of-canada-announces-recipients-of-the-2025-canadas-volunteer-awards-and-launches-the-2026-call-for-nominations.html>

Our Board has been instrumental in launching the AVENS Pavilion project, which has created over 100,000 square feet of housing designed specifically for seniors. This initiative demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that elders live with dignity and respect in safe, supportive environments.

***"I am incredibly proud of our Board and our Operations Team for their unwavering dedication and leadership over the years. Their vision has not only shaped our seniors' campus but has also made a profound impact on the lives of countless seniors in our community. This recognition is a testament to their hard work and commitment to fostering a vibrant, inclusive community where seniors can thrive."***  
said **Daryl Dolynny, President/CEO of AVENS.**

In addition to this honour, the AVENS Board has decided to **donate our \$2,500 award to the Yellowknife Seniors Society**, which operates on our campus. We believe this contribution will further support their invaluable work in enhancing the lives of seniors in our community.

The AVENS Pavilion is more than just a housing project; it represents our commitment to building a strong, supportive community. Extensive consultations with seniors, families, and health care providers have ensured that we meet the diverse needs of our northern residents. Our partnerships with local businesses and organizations have created a robust support network, turning the Pavilion into a hub of inclusiveness and engagement.

*AVENS Vision: A future where seniors age well and have choices,  
where they are connected to a safe and caring community for life.*

***"I would like to congratulate my fellow Board members over these years for their dedication and hard work in making the AVENS Pavilion project a reality. This recognition is not just for us; it reflects the collective effort of all those who have been involved in this project. Together, we have made a significant difference in the lives of seniors, fostering their well-being and community engagement."*** said **Colleen Welborn, AVENS Board Chair.**

The impact of the Pavilion has been profound. By providing affordable housing, we have improved the quality of life for seniors, reduced isolation, and fostered social connections. Our ongoing partnerships with health services and community organizations reinforce our commitment to sustainability and the well-being of our residents.

As we celebrate this achievement, we remain dedicated to enhancing the lives of seniors in our community. We thank the Government of Canada for this recognition and look forward to continuing our mission of creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all seniors.

For more information, please contact:



**Daryl Dolynny Bsc.Pharm. P.E.B.C.**

**President and Chief Executive Officer,**  
AVENS - A Community for Seniors

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