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Suds And Teamwork

This past Saturday, June 13th, 2026, our dedicated staff came together for a fun-filled day that showcased not only their hard work but also their commitment to our community. Under the blazing sun, the **AVENS Social Committee** organized a lively car wash on the generous lot provided by **Bartle and Gibson**, who we thank wholeheartedly for their support and for supplying water for the wash.

“A successful team is a group of many hands but of one mind”

Bill Bethel

The day was filled with laughter, teamwork, and a seemingly endless lineup of cars eager for a wash. Staff members, along with their kids and enthusiastic volunteers, rolled up their sleeves and got to work, transforming dirty, bug splattered vehicles into sparkling rides. It was cool to see everyone come together—this kind of camaraderie truly embodies the spirit of AVENS.

As a delightful surprise, we even had a huge tour bus join the lineup towards the end of the day! It was a sight to behold, and a testament to the buzz our car wash created in the community.



Not only did we have a blast, but we also raised a little money for future **AVENS Social Committee** events. A big shout-out to the



When you think you are the biggest bus in the parking lot, then this guy shows up



organizers from the **AVENS Social Committee** for putting this wonderful event together—it was a fantastic team-building experience that reminded all of us that you can have fun together for a common cause.

Thank you to everyone who participated, supported, and contributed to making this car wash a success. Your efforts truly make a difference in our now “clean” community!

The Story Behind Our AVENS Teepee

In late 2025, I found myself touring the Fort McPherson area for the NWT Electoral Boundaries Commission work. As I toured through the familiar landscapes of the Northwest Territories, a wave of nostalgia came over me. Fort McPherson, a town close to my heart, was one of our early stops, and I couldn't wait to reconnect with old friends from my MLA days.



The stripping of the bark from the pole, this is team building at its finest!

Upon arriving, I decided to drop by the Fort McPherson Tent and Canvas facility. The moment I stepped inside, I was welcomed with familiar warm smiles and laughter. It felt like a homecoming. While chatting with the staff, the idea hit me: why not order an authentic McPherson teepee for our AVENS campus? This wouldn't just enhance our Indigenous presence; it could serve as a beautiful bridge between our long-term care residents and independent housing tenants.



Excited about this new venture, I reached out to Carol and her family, who graciously sourced the solid pine poles we would need for the teepee's foundation. The journey of building a teepee is steeped in tradition, and I wanted our AVENS community to be involved every step of the way.

We decided to turn the initial task of debarking the poles into a team-building event. On a recent sunny afternoon, some staff gathered under the

wide-open blue sky, ready to learn the art of debarking. We learned a couple of different debarking techniques, with each person contributing to the project in their own way. It was a fun occasion, filled with team learning.



(Top L) Carol Norwegian, Supervisor of Health and Wellness, testing the integrity of three main poles that serve as the backbone for the entire structure

Guiding us through the next phase was Carol Norwegian, our Gwich'in representative and AVENS Supervisor of our Wellness Program. With her deep knowledge of traditional practices, Carol taught us how to erect the teepee the way it has been done for generations. Her passion was very noticeable, and as she spoke, I could see the pride in everyone's eyes, in that we didn't want to disappoint her. We weren't just building a structure; we were piecing together the canvas of our community.

As the teepee took shape, it became clear that this project was about more than just the physical structure. It was to become a space for connection, storytelling, and cultural exchange. Now, our elders would have a beautiful space to share their stories and engage in traditional practices with one another.



Fort McPherson Tent & Canvas



An almost finished 18' teepee project takes shape

Looking back on this experience, I feel grateful for the opportunity to bring our community together in such a meaningful way. The 18' teepee stands as a testament to our shared history and a symbol of the vibrant future we're building together at AVENS.

Celebrating AVENS Community At Our Annual Town Hall Event

I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the well-attended **Town Hall** event we hosted on Thursday, June 18th. It was truly an inspiring experience to spend time with over 35 of our independent housing tenants from Aven Court, Ridge, and Pavilion.

2025 - 2026 Accomplished

AVENS is proud to offer a safe and improved living environment

- AVENS Eat, AVENS Spin & AVENS Touch- Support Services
- Sage Studio Opening
- Foot Care Clinic Opening
- Lani Yoga Studio Program
- Taig Guitar Sessions
- Security Enhancements to Dining Room
- Library Grand Opening
- Theater Grand Opening
- Line Painting & Parking Lot
- Baker Centre Flooring



2025 - 2026 Accomplished cont....

AVENS is proud to offer a safe and improved living environment

- Campus Speed Radar and Controls
- NEW Key Fobs
- Expanded Services at Pavilion Reception
- NEW Vending machines at the Pavilion
- SECONDARY Location for FREE Notary Services
- NEW Strategic Plan for AVENS 2026-2031
- AVENS Board Receives National Award
- AVENS Accreditation Renewed
- 4 Year Collective Bargaining Agreement With Union
- Completion of Homes For Seniors Fundraiser



A look back over the year

The atmosphere was buzzing, as we gathered to celebrate our campus's successes over the past year. It was wonderful to share the achievements we've made together and to unveil some exciting projects lined up for the summer and fall. Everyone's enthusiasm and feedback during the presentation were truly respectful.

2026 - 2027 On Our Radar!

AVENS is proud to invest in providing a quality living environment

- Laneway Construction- City of Yellowknife
- UP Here PUB Opening
- Garden Boxes (planter box relocation)
- Baker Centre Painting Project
- Court Patio Project
- NEW Campus Signage
- Cultural Ceremonial Teepee
- Shift NWT- NEW Electric Bike Rental
- Campus Pathway Project



What we have on our "To do" list



Over 35 tenants from the Aven Court, Ridge and Pavilion attended our AVENS Town Hall event

FREE AVENS Services

Sometimes FREE is Good

- FREE Theater / shows / movies / sporting events
- FREE Fitness Room
- FREE Business Centre (computer / printer)
- FREE Yoga Studio (Lani Yoga)
- FREE Library
- FREE Laundry (Aven Pavillion residents only)
- FREE Notary Services
- Yes, FREE CAR WASH IS FINALLY HERE!

Sometimes we forget all the FREE services we provide at AVENS

A special thank you goes out to our executive officers and management team who took the time to join us. It was fantastic to see them

mingling with everyone after the presentation, answering questions and engaging in very cool conversations. These interactions are what make our community so special, and I appreciate each of you for being an integral part of this tradition.

- AVENS Annual Car, Truck and Bike Show
- Garden Box Program Enhancements
- Christmas Mingle and Jingle
- Summer Thank You BBQ
- Healthcare Tourism With Filipino Doctors
- New Elections Canada Voting Program
- Second Cash Machine Available At Pavilion
- Fire Safety Training Seminars
- Spooktober Trick & Treat
- Tree of Giving and Craft Sale
- AVENS Leisure Wear Program
- Ribbon Cutting Events at the Pavilion- Theater, Library, Administration

Community Events

It's amazing all the community events we do at AVENS...and this is just a watered-down list

sure everyone got a ticket for the prize draws at the end of the Town Hall

Our annual **Town Hall** meetings are more than just an opportunity to share updates; they are a chance for us to strengthen our relationship between tenant and landlord and ensure we continue to thrive together on our campus. Your presence and participation make this event a highlight of the year.

As we move forward into the summer and fall, I am filled with anticipation for all that we will achieve together. Thank you for being such an important part of the AVENS community. Here's to many more successful gatherings and shared moments!



(Top L Clockwise) President and CEO of AVENS, Daryl Dolynny, addressing the tenants, AVENS Chief Housing Officer, Catherine Travis, making

Community Corner

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

Your Dedication Makes a Difference. If you are passionate about creating positive, lasting change and strengthening the Seniors community, we invite you to join our mission. We are actively seeking dedicated volunteers to support our vital work

What We Ask of You:

- ✓ Attend monthly Board meetings
- ✓ Participate in strategic planning, and at least one committee
- ✓ Attend AVENS key events, where possible

Contact us now!

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APPLY NOW

www.avensseniors.com