

Contents

- 01: How Far We've Come- AGM Reflections
- 02: AVENS Welcomes Food Rescue
- 03: Visit With Rebecca Altj
- 04: Celebrating Thanksgiving 2026
- 05: Community Corner

How Far We've Come- AGM Reflections

On September 28, 2026, AVENS welcomed members, management and staff to the Aven Pavilion Dining Hall for our Annual General Meeting. More than fifty members participated in this important event, chaired wonderfully by our Chief Nursing Officer, Frances Marshall. Frances kept the meeting moving with professionalism and just the right amount of AGM magic!

"How far we've come is a reflection of the dedication, compassion and community spirit that makes AVENS possible- and a reminder of the exciting journey still ahead"

Daryl Dolynny, AVENS President and CEO

A highlight of the evening was receiving our newly released 2025–2026 annual report, **"How Far We've Come."** This year was especially meaningful because, for the first time in several years, AVENS experienced what we might call a

"normal" year—one without a major development project underway, a wildfire evacuation or even a global pandemic.

A special thank-you to our Executive Director, **Tanya Doherty**, for creating, drafting and editing this year's annual report.



The cover page for this year's annual report

The cover of the annual report beautifully captures our journey. It combines an aerial view of the AVENS campus from ~1997, before the Cottages were built, with a 2024 aerial photograph showing the Pavilion nearing completion. Together, this transitional image tells the story of AVENS's remarkable transformation in one powerful photograph.

Another significant milestone shared at the AGM was the completion of our 2020 strategic plan and in the same breath, we showcased that in March 2026, we proudly completed our new

strategic plan, which will guide AVENS through to 2031. It is an exciting roadmap for our future and a reflection of how far we have come—and how much more is still ahead.



Our NEW Strategic Plan that will guide us until 2031



(L to R) Alwyn Palongayak, Kaylem Lermo, Arvin Landry, and AVENS Chief Operations Officer, Steven Nicholas performing our opening drum prayer

While I will miss several board members who are leaving us, I am delighted to welcome back Matt Spence, Lynda Koe, Taig Connell and Lani Cooke. I am also looking forward to working with our newly elected board members: Barry Ward, Wanda Roberts, Gillian Moir and Marjorie Matheson-Maud. I will be introducing them in more detail in upcoming newsletters.



AVENS Board of Directors along with the evenings Emcee, Frances Marshall (Far right)



AVENS membership and guests listening attentively as speakers recapped our very productive year in the making

Thank you to our incredible staff and management team, who bring AVENS's core

values of compassion and community to life every day. We are equally grateful to our residents, families, donors, volunteers, community partners and government partners. Your continued support makes our work possible—and helps us keep moving forward together.

AVENS Welcomes Food Rescue

At AVENS, community partnerships are at the heart of everything we do—and few partners demonstrate community spirit quite like **Food Rescue**.

Through their tireless efforts, Food Rescue acquires surplus food, rescues items nearing their expiry dates, and redistributes them to people and organizations in need. Over the years, AVENS has proudly been one of their recipients, benefiting from their generosity and commitment to reducing food waste while strengthening our community.

So, when the opportunity came to return the favour, we were delighted to host the entire Food Rescue family at the **Aven Pavilion Dining Room on Friday, September 25, 2026**.

The gathering marked a special changing of the guard: bidding farewell to Site Coordinator **Tania Hercun** and welcoming **Nico Todd-Cullen** into the role. And, naturally, no Food Rescue transition would be complete without the ceremonial passing of the “**baguette baton**”—a tradition as memorable, as it tastes, apparently.

AVENS was honoured to sponsor not only the space for the celebration, but also the food. This delightful reversal did not go unnoticed by the Food Rescue team, who expressed their appreciation for the chance to enjoy a meal provided by AVENS.



Food Rescue Yellowknife · Follow
September 28 at 11:41 AM · 🌐

On Friday, we gathered at Aven's Centre for our Volunteer and Staff Appreciation Lunch! We were happy to celebrate and thank our incredible volunteers, board members, and staff who keep our organization running smoothly, helping us continue our mission of rescuing food and sharing it with community partners in need.

A huge thank you to [AVENS: A Community for Seniors](#) for generously providing both the venue and delicious food for our celebration!

During the lunch, we also said a heartfelt farewell to our outgoing Site Coordinator, Tania Hercun. We are deeply grateful to Tania for her years of incredible organization, dedication, and service to Food Rescue. As Tania passes the “baguette baton”, we're excited to welcome our new Site Coordinator, Nico Todd-Cullen!

Thank you again to everyone who makes Food Rescue possible. We couldn't do it without you! See less



Food Rescue Yellowknife
Nonprofit Organization

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It was a wonderful afternoon of laughter, gratitude and shared community spirit. We are thankful to Tania for her dedication, excited to welcome Nico, and proud to celebrate the remarkable work Food Rescue continues to do throughout our community.

Here's to strong partnerships and food for everyone!

NOTE- NO baguette was harmed in the making of this article.

Visit With Rebbeca Alty

On Monday, September 28, 2026, AVENS was pleased to welcome Rebecca Alty, our Member of Parliament and Minister, for a visit with residents, staff, and members of our management team.

 AVENS: A Community for Seniors is with Rebecca Alty at AVENS: A Community for ... 6 minutes ago · Yellowknife · 🌐

Thank you, Minister Rebecca Alty, for visiting AVENS and spending time with our residents. We appreciated you joining our management team and Board member Taig Connell for lunch in the Pavilion Dining Room. Your continued advocacy for seniors' healthcare and northern seniors' issues means so much. Come back anytime, Rebecca!

Daryl Dolynny, President/CEO See less



Rebecca had reached out several times over the summer, but with a demanding schedule, finding a suitable time proved challenging. When we were finally able to carve out an hour, we happily made the most of it!

As always, Rebecca enjoyed catching up with old friends, former AVENS colleagues, residents, and staff. There were plenty of smiles, laughs, and great conversations throughout the facility—it was wonderful to have her back!

We also enjoyed breaking bread with Rebecca in the AVENS Pavilion dining room. Over lunch, our management team discussed seniors' advocacy, potential improvements to seniors' care

initiatives, and the ongoing challenges—and possible solutions—related to seniors' housing.



Minister Rebecca Alty sharing a meal with members of AVENS Management Team and AVENS Board Member Taig Connell

We are always happy to host Rebecca at AVENS and look forward to welcoming her back for another visit soon.

Celebrating Thanksgiving 2026

Thanksgiving at AVENS is about far more than a delicious meal. It is about family, tradition, gratitude and the joy of gathering together.

For decades, AVENS has proudly carried on the tradition of Thanksgiving dinners for our residents and their families. This year, our Cottage residents and their loved ones gathered on **Thursday, October 8, 2026**, followed by our Manor residents and families to be held on **Wednesday, October 14, 2026**.



(Center) AVENS Food Supervisor, Lawrence Malaque, surrounded by his Team, as they are about to serve supper

While the dinners may look effortless when the tables are set and the food is served, a great deal of care and teamwork happens behind the scenes. Menus are planned, meals are prepared, spaces are decorated, tables are arranged and countless details are coordinated to create a warm and memorable experience.



AVENS Recreation and Wellness Supervisor, Carol Norwegian (center), welcoming the Cottages families

My sincere thanks go to **Lawrence Malaque, AVENS Food Supervisor**, and his team for preparing the wonderful meals; **Carol**

Norwegian, Wellness and Recreation Supervisor, and her team for helping bring the celebrations to life; **Randie Salaveria, Housekeeping Supervisor, and Randie's team** for ensuring everything is clean, welcoming and ready; and, of course, our dedicated **Care team led by Frances Marshal, Chief Nursing Officer**, who continue to step up and support our residents throughout these special events.

Thanksgiving reminds us that family comes in many forms and these traditions that have brought us together for generations.

To everyone helping make these celebrations possible: thank you. Your hard work, compassion and teamwork are what make Thanksgiving at AVENS so special.

Community Corner



Voting Options for
AVENS

2026 CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE CIVIC ELECTION

A MOBILE POLL will be held for AVENS Tenants and Residents on October 14th, 2026 from 9am to 12pm at AVENS Barb Bromley Administration

All AVENS Campus Residents who are eligible to vote in the election can use this poll or on election day can use any voting station at

École Itł'ò
Tree of Peace Friendship Centre Multiplex
Weledeh Catholic School
Range Lake North School

Please bring your identification showing your name and address

8th Annual
TREE OF GIVING
and Craft Sale

Saturday November 14
9AM-2PM
Administration Entrance

Santa Photos
Appointments starting at 9am
Available to book starting
November 2nd
Walk-ins welcome

Craft Tables
\$30 each
Please email
frances_marshall@avensseniors.com
to book your table