From the CEO's desk

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Warm Wishes: A Community Coming Together

The Christmas decorations went up at AVENS right after Remembrance Day, and our staff were been busy transforming the place into a full-blown Santa's workshop

> ***"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year"***
>
> ***Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol***

There were decorations everywhere—and lists that were being checked, checked again, and then checked one more time, just to be sure.

This past week, we celebrated our **eighth annual Tree of Giving and Craft Sale on Saturday November 14, 2026**, an event that has brought so much joy to our residents and our community over the years.

The idea is simple and meaningful: residents in long-term care and our dementia care home share a Christmas wish with the help of our staff. The wishes are anonymous, giving a community member, family, business or even a classroom the chance to choose a gift that will mean a lot to someone.



And these aren't extravagant requests. Sometimes it's a new pair of pyjamas, warm socks or mittens—or even a DVD copy of *Die Hard*. (Apparently, it's a Christmas classic for some of our residents)

On that Saturday, our community came out in a wonderful way to choose wishes from the tree and help make them come true. We're especially flattered to see the idea catching on with other nonprofit organizations. They say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, and we'll happily take it.

The event also raises funds through cash donations, via www.CanadaHelps.org and to our many donors already, our sincere thank you for your support.

From the CEO's desk

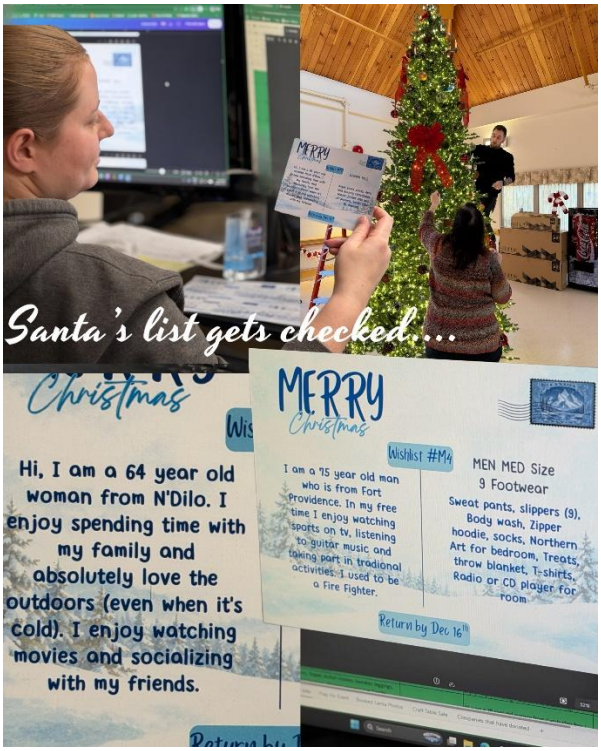
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Christmas set up 2026, with some of the staff pulling their hair out!



Many of our staff either working or volunteering. Thank you!



Unit Clerk, Emma-Lee Marks (on loan from the North Pole Administration) checks and re-checks the list



Some of our craft exhibitors showing their skills. Thank you for joining us!

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57 resident wishes up and 57 wishes taken! Thank you Yellowknife!



Buddy the Elf, giving our photographer the thumbs up with one of our residents.



Santa and Mrs. Claus having some fun!



This littl'one was more groggily eyed with Mr. Claus than with Santa

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Kids come in all sizes…

As well, funds were also raised with the help of Mr. and Mrs. Claus and our professional photographer. The Claus's who made their perilous annual journey on the sleigh, with blinding fog, no snow, and mild temperatures, had to deal with the unusual over-heating of their reindeer. Rodolph's nose was actually hot to the touch upon arriving on the roof of the Pavilion? I never realized Rodolph's nose had a redline indicator, who knew?

A big thank-you as well to the ten craft tables and their teams, whose handmade crafts, artwork, culinary creations and other wares brought extra sparkle to the day.

An incredible thank-you to our senior management team and the many members of our senior care team who stepped up to make this event happen—not just during work hours, but by volunteering their own time, too. And thank you to Amy Stewart of Picture Perfect Takes for capturing the tender moments with Mr. and Mrs. Claus; having so many newborns visit this year made those photos especially precious.

Add it all together and you have the spirit of Christmas: a community coming together to bring warmth and happiness to people who may not have family nearby. At AVENS, we are their family—and year after year, this community reminds us that we're not doing it alone…and for that we are so very grateful.

A Lasting Seat At Our Table

This past week, we paused at AVENS to remember the fallen and to thank the veterans and service members who have sacrificed so much for our freedom and for the well-being of all.

At our AVENS Barb Bromley Administration building, a lone seat and place setting offered a quiet tribute: **the Missing Man Table**, sometimes called the **Fallen Comrade Table**. It is designed specifically to honour service members who are missing, held captive, or unable to be with the people they love. Thank you goes out to our AVENS Supervisor of Recreation and Wellness, Carol Norwegian, for doing this display each year.

Each item carries meaning. The white tablecloth represents the purity of their intentions; the empty chair reminds us they are not here; the rose reminds us of the families who kept the faith. A lemon represents the bitterness of their

fate, while salt symbolizes the tears of waiting families, also included is a candle as a light of hope.



The Missing Man Table located at the AVENS Barb Bromly Administration area

At the Aven Pavilion Eggenberger Administration, our team, led by our Chief Operations Officer, Steven Nicholas, created a memorial table, with a wreath and messages of remembrance in the Pavilion Dining Room. Many people stopped to thank our administration teams for taking the time to make these thoughtful tributes. Those words meant a great deal to us.

We are blessed and honoured to make space for remembrance at AVENS. Thank you to everyone who paused, reflected, and helped us honour those who served—and those still waiting to come home.



Upper- Aven Pavilion Eggenberger Administration, Lower- Aven Pavilion Dining room

Community Corner




HOLIDAY MOVIE MONDAYS
6:00 PM
Aven Pavilion Theatre
JUST LIKE A
CHRISTMAS
MOVIE
Warmth & Christmas Cheer