

# YKDFN HOUSING STRATEGY

MAY 2022



+ together  
design lab

*Supporting safe, caring and culturally respectful homes to enhance the life, learning and well-being of our people.*

Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) have identified the availability of adequate, affordable and appropriate housing for their membership as an ongoing major concern. The uniqueness of YKDFN– its climatic, geographic and cultural factors– have meant one-size-fits-all solutions created nationally or by the territorial government have failed to appropriately house members. The Yellowknives Dene First Nation Housing Strategy (YKDFNHS) aims to put community members in control of their housing system: administration, building, design, governance, and planning. The Housing Strategy is being created through a process of extensive community engagement and collaboration with partners to provide a community-based approach to housing.

## Partnership

Partnered with YKDFN in the development of their Housing Strategy are Together Design Lab at Toronto Metropolitan University (TDL). TDL is made up of planners, designers and architects with experience working in the north and in partnership with First Nations. This partnership guides all elements of the YKDFNHS and relies on the strengths of both partners; working in a trusting, reciprocal, long-term relationship which guides all Strategy activities. YKDFN and TDL's partnership has been ongoing since the Housing Strategy development began in March, 2019.

## Project Activities

The YKDFNHS themes (shown below) are being addressed to plan for housing that supports wellness at both an individual and community level through the project's main activities:

- Ongoing community engagement
- Housing needs assessment survey
- Land use and subdivision planning
- Design research and workshops
- Development of Gonè Gokò Housing Society
- Governance and housing action plans
- Territorial and federal advocacy
- Programming to develop skills in community
- Final Housing Strategy and implementation plan



## Next Steps

We are currently in the engagement process of creating community-led policies and by-laws for the governance and administration of housing built, owned and operated by YKDFN. Sharing and reporting the results of YKDFN's community-designed and administered housing needs assessment is upcoming. Community planning, design and advocacy are ongoing, developing a holistic approach toward systems control of housing for YKDFN, and building toward home for all members.

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