

MEMBER'S STATEMENT – GREAT SLAVE -- February 19, 2009

**Yellowknife Association for Community Living**

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the important role of the Yellowknife Association for Community Living. The Yellowknife Association for Community Living is a non-profit organization that helps people with intellectual disabilities, and their families, live meaningful lives in supportive communities.

The Association provides services in a wide-variety of areas to people of all ages. Their programs address important areas of need in Yellowknife and the North.

The Association for Community living provides a program to support children who may be affected by or who have been diagnosed with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Their Family Project works with families from birth on, to bring about change, so that their relatives with disabilities are welcomed into community life, and can participate and contribute to their community in valuable ways. The Association also provides a planned, part time relief service to families supporting people with disabilities.

In partnership with Aurora College, the Literacy Outreach program recruits and trains volunteer literacy tutors to provide inclusive literacy instruction and reaches out by targeting specific, hard-to-reach groups.

The Association for Community Living offers a Skills Training and Community Inclusion program, and their successful EmployAbility program partners with Yellowknife businesses to create training and job opportunities for people with disabilities. The program promotes disability

awareness and encourages diversity in the northern workforce. It also empowers people to lead highly productive lives. The Abe Miller Summer Cafe offers business and work experience to people with intellectual disabilities, and has operated successfully for many years.

Finally, Supportive Living Services helps people who choose to live on their own, move toward their full potential as members of society.

All of these programs work toward the goal of allowing people with intellectual disabilities to lead meaningful, self-determined lives to the fullest extent possible. They promote dignity, respect, equality, diversity, human rights, mutual responsibility, inclusion and moral courage.

Mr. Speaker, these are virtues society needs more and more, and we can be proud of the resources offered to the Northwest Territories by Yellowknife Association for Community Living.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage hope the Members of this House, and the people of the NWT to join me in applauding the hardworking and dedicated staff and volunteers at the Association for Community Living, and in supporting their continued efforts.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.