

MEMBER'S STATEMENT – GREAT SLAVE – February 24, 2009

Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This afternoon I'll talk about and highlight the Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors (YACCS) and their dedication and many contributions to Yellowknife and the NWT.

YACCS has been active for 25 years, working with and on behalf of seniors in Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories. YACCS is a recognized leader in the NWT for work with seniors, to provide them with high quality community living choices, and advocating for their needs. They also work to develop a wide range of services that allow seniors to age in their communities, close to family and other support systems. YACCS is committed to the safety and well-being of their clientele and employees as well as continuous improvement to their organization.

YACCS has achieved great success in providing much needed facilities, programs and services to seniors in the Northwest Territories. 2008 marked the 20th anniversary of Aven Manor, a long term care facility where caring and capable staff provide nursing and personal care to seniors 24 hours a day. They also offer a full schedule of activities for all residents to enjoy. Consistently at full capacity, Aven Manor is an asset to our community.

YACCS provides independent housing for seniors at Aven Court and, since December 2007, at Aven Ridge. These conveniently located units

offer safe and attractive housing options for people 60 years of age and older.

The Baker Community Centre will celebrate its 11th anniversary this year. The Baker Centre is a multi-purpose facility that accommodates many social and recreational activities for seniors and the community at large. The Baker Centre project was initiated by a donation made by the late Ed Baker, and completed through fundraising and community support. The Baker Centre is operated by the Yellowknife Seniors' Society, which continues to enjoy an excellent partnership with YACCS.

Soon, in late 2009, YACCS will begin operating the NWT's first Dementia Facility with 28 beds. YACCS has been an advocate and champion for the development of this Territorial Dementia Facility. Without their drive and commitment I believe that the Territorial Dementia Facility currently under construction on YACCS property would never see the light of day.

YACCS is a valuable association made up of people who are deeply committed to the health and well-being of our senior citizens, and ultimately the community as a whole.

I'd like to take this opportunity to ask Members of this house and the public to join me in applauding all the staff and volunteers of YACCS for their hard work and dedication. Their contribution is appreciated.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.