

Did we get it wrong?

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NEWS Briefs

Suspect in cab robbery charged

A 28-year-old Yellowknife man is facing charges after a cab driver was robbed and assaulted last week.

Isaias Aburto is charged with robbery, disguise with intent, and uttering threats to cause death, stated RCMP in a news release Tuesday.

Aburto also faces two counts of failing to comply with conditions of undertaking or recognizance.

On the morning of Dec. 14, RCMP say a taxi driver was robbed and assaulted in an alley near 54 Street. The cabbie was admitted to hospital after being cut with a knife during the assault and was treated for minor injuries. Aburto has been remanded into custody and is due to appear in court on Jan. 2, 2018.

— Brendan Burke

Yellowknife dates set for national inquiry

A community hearing in Yellowknife for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls will be held from Jan. 23 to 25.

The announcement comes after the hearing was pushed back from its original Nov. 13. No explanation for the postponement has been given.

Residents wishing to register at the hearing, officials will be present to collect statements.

Details will be made available to the public early in the new year, according to a release.

The national inquiry encourages families, survivors and community members to contact their toll free support line at 1-844-413-6649.

— Brendan Burke

Don't advertise absence, say RCMP

Vacationing residents should take precautions to protect their homes from theft during the holiday season.

In a news release, RCMP stated Yellowknifers should take note of the following home security tips:

If you don't have a house sitter, ask a friend, family member of neighbour to check on your home once a day.

Consider buying a light timer to turn your lights on and off automatically.

Think twice about posting your vacation plans on social media.

Stop your mail and newspaper delivery or have a friend pick them up while you're away.

And ask a friend to move your vehicle so it looks like it's been used and consider hiring someone to remove snow from your driveway.

— Brendan Burke

Publishing dates

A reminder to readers the next edition of the *Yellowknifer* is Jan. 3. The next edition of *News/North* is Jan. 8.

— James O'Connor



Bree Denning, executive director of the Yellowknife Women's Society, left, Yellowknife Centre MLA Julie Green, NWT Housing Minister Caroline Cochrane and Tom Williams, president and CEO of the NWT Housing Corporation, help celebrate the grand opening of eight new semi-independent units for women in Yellowknife on Wednesday.

Eight new housing spaces open for women in need

Semi-independent spaces provide "privacy and dignity," says Yellowknife Women's Society executive director

by Kirsten Fenn
Northern News Services

They may not have come decorated in wrapping paper, but eight semi-independent living units gifted to women in Yellowknife on Wednesday came with little Christmas bows pinned neatly on each door.

The Yellowknife Women's Centre this week celebrated the grand opening of the units, which will give eight women a safe place to sleep, shower and cook meals starting this holiday season.

"This is a present for Christmas," said NWT Housing Minister Caroline Cochrane, speaking at the celebration. "Eight women will now have a home for Christmas and that's the most exciting gift that I could give to anyone."

The space is located on the lower level of the Yellowknife Women's



EMILY ATIGIKYOAK: says the opening of the new living space for women at the Yellowknife Women's Centre is much needed.

Centre — formerly the Centre for Northern Families — and was developed with the help of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

It used to house a daycare until the service moved to a new location and the lower level of the centre was transformed this spring into the women's units.

The GNWT pitched in \$460,000 for the work — a small figure, Cochrane said, given the number of people who will benefit from the project.

Emily Atigikyoak, who has been a long-time user of the women's shelter, said women are in need of housing support like this.

"We need it. Not only the men get to have a place like Bailey House," she said. "We need one too for the women ... it's very helpful."

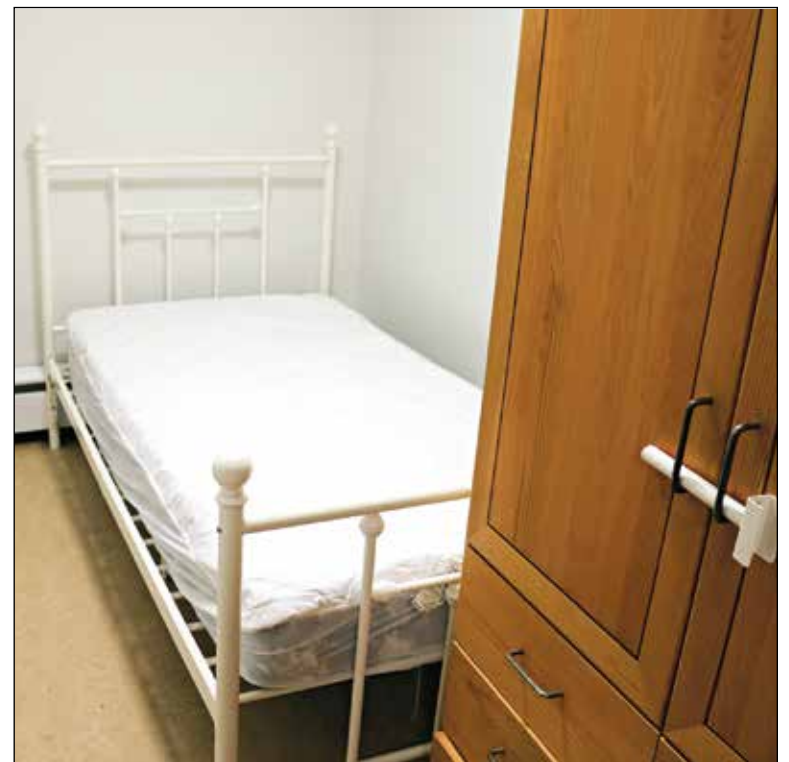
Each room is equipped with a bed and a wardrobe for clothing, which can be washed using laundry facilities at the shelter upstairs.

A bathroom with two toilet stalls, two sinks and two showers is also available in the space, which looks similar to an apartment, but with eight bedrooms.

Meanwhile, small curtains hang in a window in a sparkling clean kitchen, while a table for eating and a living room with sofas and a television are located adjacent to the kitchen.

Bree Denning, executive director of the Yellowknife Women's Society, described the creation of the new units as a "monumental" achievement.

"For a very long time, the emergency shelter acted as an emergency shelter but also as a permanent



Each room in the eight-unit living space at the Yellowknife Women's Centre is equipped with a bed and wardrobe.

house for folks that just needed a bit of support to move on," said Denning. "This allows us to provide some privacy and dignity and work on a bit of independence for women who need a bit of time to get situated."

While the units are transitional, the women will be able to stay as long as they need, said Denning.

They are required to pay rent — either through income support, or 30 per cent of their income if they're working or on a pension, said Denning.

Women were selected for the

units based on how long they have been staying at the emergency shelter, as well as their interest in the units.

The eight new living spaces are designed to alleviate pressure at the women's emergency shelter and help women eventually transition to market rental units in the community.

"Homelessness is not an easy issue to address," said Cochrane. "It's often not only that they don't have a place to stay. It's about the wrap-around supports. It's about the care in the community and how we treat people."