



# Mind the Gap

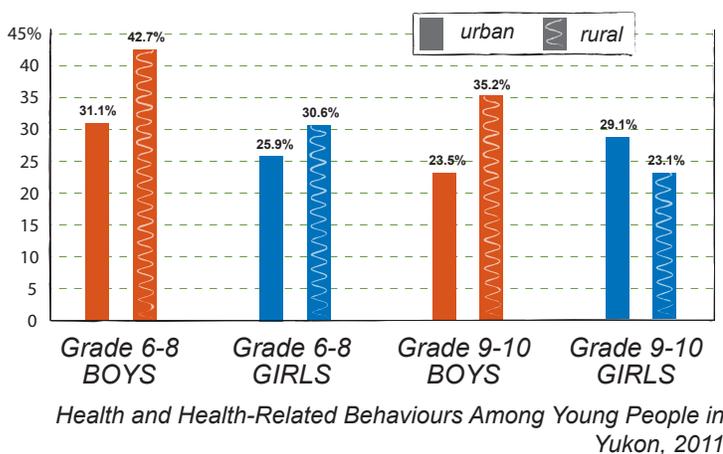
Human Rights + Poverty + Homelessness

## FOOD SECURITY

The Whitehorse Food Bank is currently serving over 4 times the number they initially planned for when the Food Bank opened in 2009; over 1,300 people per month and an increase of over 300 people from last year.

Too many children go to school or bed hungry in Yukon; two-fifths of Yukon rural boys in Grade six to eight report going to bed or school hungry because there is not enough food at home.

**Students who go to school or bed hungry at least sometimes because there is not enough food at home, by grade, urban/rural status, and gender (%)**



The Salvation Army serves an average of 5,000 meals per month; up from 3,500 meals per month from the same time last year. ~ Salvation Army

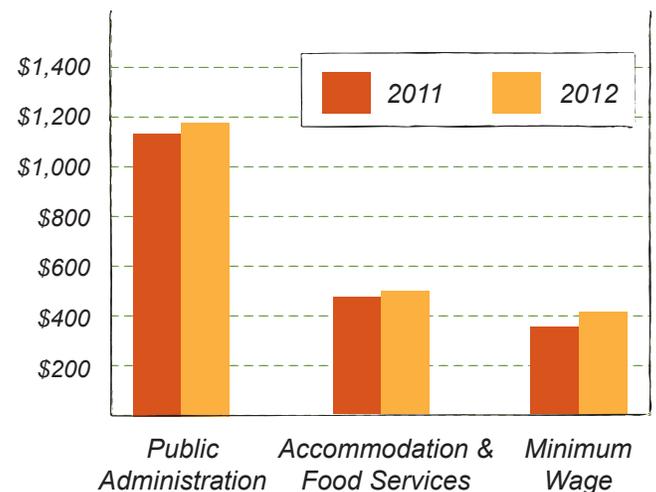
Sally & Sisters served over 728 hot lunches to women and 113 to children between April and September 2012. ~ Sally & Sisters

## ECONOMIC SECURITY

Minimum wage increased from \$9.27 per hour to \$10.30 per hour in 2012. A 40-hour week provides gross earnings of \$412.00 per week.

There is a large discrepancy in different sectors of employment. If you work in the Accommodation or Food Industry your average weekly earnings in June 2012 were \$464.26 per week. If you work as a Public Administrator your average weekly earnings in June 2012 were \$1,150.60. ~Yukon Bureau of Statistics, 2012

**Average weekly earnings by selected sectors and minimum wage earners.**



Rapidly rising real estate values have changed the meaning of “affordable housing” and those in lower income brackets are unable to afford even an entry-level home.

## HOMELESSNESS

The Salvation Army provides 14 beds and 16 mats. This includes ten new mats purchased in 2012 by the Yukon Government to accommodate those sleeping on chairs in the dining area. ~ *The Salvation Army*

In the past three years, there have been at least five deaths amongst “regulars”, [of the Salvation Army] all of whom had chronic health problems, and all of whom were heavy drinkers. ~ *Poverty Amongst Plenty, Nick Falvo 2012*

### Shelters

Whitehorse still does not have a shelter for youth under the age of 17.

Unless a woman is fleeing violence, the only shelter option is the Salvation Army which predominately shelters men.

### Transitional Housing

People exiting correctional facilities, drug and alcohol treatment, mental health facilities, youth in care facilities, or street-involved youth have very limited or insufficient housing opportunities. Without supportive housing vulnerability to relapse increases significantly.

### Supportive Housing

People living with active addictions, physical disabilities, mental health issues and low-income seniors have few options for supportive housing. ~ *A Home for Everyone*

## OUTREACH

In 2011, the Outreach Van served 1,811 people. In 2012, they served 2,004 people, an increase of 193 individuals. This included 184 youth and 220 children.



Yukon Anti-Poverty  
COALITION  
anti-pauvreté du Yukon

## HOUSING

The average selling price for a single house in Whitehorse increased \$19,500, or 4.9%, from the 2011 (\$398,100) to 2012 (\$417,600).

~ *Yukon Bureau of Statistics*

The number of apartments available for rent in June, 2012 was 13.

### Whitehorse Rent Summary, June 2012

Number of apartments in survey ...	1,019
Number of apartments vacant .....	13
Vacancy rate for all units .....	1.3%
Median rent for all units .....	\$835

~ *Yukon Bureau of Statistics*

### Low-Income Rental Housing

Low-income housing is insufficient to meet demand.

The current Landlord and Tenant Act does not include or enforce minimal rental standards; many low-rent units are in poor to sub-standard condition.

### Housing and Social Assistance

Social Assistance Rates are insufficient to meet the current high rental rates:

- ▶ The “top-up” needed to pay for accommodation is often taken out of food allowance; hence the growth in the number of people accessing the Whitehorse Food Bank and Salvation Army meals
- ▶ A local campground had a waiting list this past summer for their long term stay sites and were used as “housing” for low income and socially assisted people
- ▶ Local hotels are sometimes used by people on Social Assistance; they charge between \$900 to \$1,100 per month for a long-stay hotel room, leaving very little to buy food, clothing and incidentals (Oct., 2012)