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## AVENS Visits Yellowknife River

What we call “Getting on the land” has a significant cultural and healing meaning for many of our Elders. With the warm welcome of spring-like temperatures, a group of hearty AVENS explorers took the road for the Yellowknife River. Their quest was simple, they just wanted to have a campfire.

**“A Campfire-  
Where great  
times and great  
friends are  
made”**

*Anonymous*

The Health and Wellness Team, under the leadership of Carol Norwegian, loaded up the bus last week for a pilgrimage to one of AVENS favourite spots down at the Yellowknife river.

Once there, our guests were treated to Tim Horton's and snacks while enjoying the comforts of a warm campfire. We think the pictures do speak for themselves.



**Yes, hello Mabel! (waving) We see you!**

Finally, we were also fortunate that some of the Aurora College Nursing students made their way for the journey. It is important that these students learn the way of our AVENS values and culture. It's more than just learning from books.



**Carol Norwegian, getting the fire going, while our trusted Care on Wheels AVENS bus is in the background**



What is a campfire without Tim Horton's? (L to R) Supervisor of Health and Wellness, Carol Norwegian, Aurora College 1<sup>st</sup> year Nursing Student, Michael, and one of our AVENS guests



Making a difference is what we do for our AVENS residents and staff, the same holds true for our city. AVENS is a proud supporter of the City of Yellowknife and helping keeping our city clean makes all the difference for many of us.

## AVENS Cleans-Up Yellowknife Streets

If you were to Google "City of Yellowknife Spring Clean-Up" you will find a past picture of our AVENS crew cleaning up the streets.

For many spring's now, numerous AVENS employees, dressed in high visibility vests, with safety glasses and gloves have participated in the city-wide Spring Clean-Up program.

This year, AVENS was part of a number of volunteer groups that helped clear litter from 57 areas within our city. For our efforts, \$1000 was donated by the city and given to our AVENS Social Committee. These monies will be administered by this committee and used for our various staff events.



Part of the AVENS Angels City of Yellowknife Spring Clean-Up crew

Thank you again to our coordinator of this event, our Director of Human Resources, Lindsey Dwojak, and everyone that has pitched-in for this wonderful annual team building event.



(L to R) RCA, Renee Wiseman and Super-D-Dooper helper & daughter, Abigail



(L to R) Three generations of AVENS Angels at work, daughter, RCA, Shanta Ansdell, grand daughter, Aurora and grandma, Supervisor of Health and Wellness, Carol Norwegian

## Infection Control Quality Assurance- Raising The Bar From Glow Germ To Assure

AVENS infection and quality control assurance program is closely monitored and tested by the fine folks of our Housekeeping Department.

Under the leadership of Housekeeping Supervisor, Randie Salavaria, current methods for meeting the quality control standards are about to change for the better.

To reduce the transmission by assessing cleaning practices, AVENS was using an environmental marking audit program called "Glow Germ" to test the cleanliness of a dedicated area. This usually consists of "Marking" an area with an invisible product on surfaces that are expected to be cleaned, then verifying with a "UV light" to assess whether effective cleaning (defined as full removal of the marker) has occurred.



Should there be a UV light presence with the marker, it would mean inadequate cleaning occurred, thus a continued presence of organisms remaining. This is usually graded on a scale where best practice would be greater than 80% of marker are no longer visible following cleaning. However, with Covid-19 most LTC facilities were targeting well above 90% or better.

The process of Glo Germ auditing has its early roots from the late 60's, so it was time for us to look for alternative and better means to assure our infection quality control standards were being met. We found this solution with a simpler and cost effective alternative with the ASSURE SYSTEM.

The Assure System is an innovative quality assurance audit tool that is going to revolutionize how AVENS improves our cleaning standards, why? Because it is simple and cheaper for us to use, while giving us 100% reliable results.

With two simple steps: **Assure Tracker** is sprayed on a surface and dries in minutes, leaving no traces or residue. **Assure Detector** is sprayed on same surface, if a white foam appears, it means the surface was not sufficiently cleaned. If there is no visible reaction, the surface was properly cleaned...that's it!

Ensuring that our employees are meeting hygiene and disinfection standards is just one more quality assurance step in raising the bar of care we provide for our Seniors on campus.

## Yellowknife Seniors Society Provides Welcome Bags For Our Hay River LTC Evacuees

This is now our second week since we have had the pleasure of hosting six (6) long term care residents from the Hay River Woodland Manor facility.

As we are all aware the entire town of Hay River was evacuated due to widespread flooding, in the late hours of May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022, including Woodland Manor.

AVENS was asked if we could take in many of the 22 displaced long term care residents, and immediately our team rose to the challenge.

Since then, our Hay River guests have been transitioning into our AVENS culture and making new friends along the way.



(L to R) Members of our Care Team on a call with GNWT counterparts discussing the Hay River Woodland Manor situation, Director of Care, Frances Sinclair, Care Manager, Sandra Walsh, and Clinical Coordinator, Jessica Ewing

Speaking of friends, our colleagues at the Yellowknife Seniors Society and their Executive Director, Kim Doyle, have been *busy beavers*. They put together six custom welcome bags for our guests. These bags consisted of personal care items, treats and a hand made lap blanket. Once again, this community never ceases to amaze me. Thank you YKSS for your kindness and generosity.



Yellowknife Seniors Society Executive Director, Kim Doyle, giving “two thumbs-up” for our new Hay River guests