

2021 \$495,000 WINNER

**H O P E**

**HOUSE**

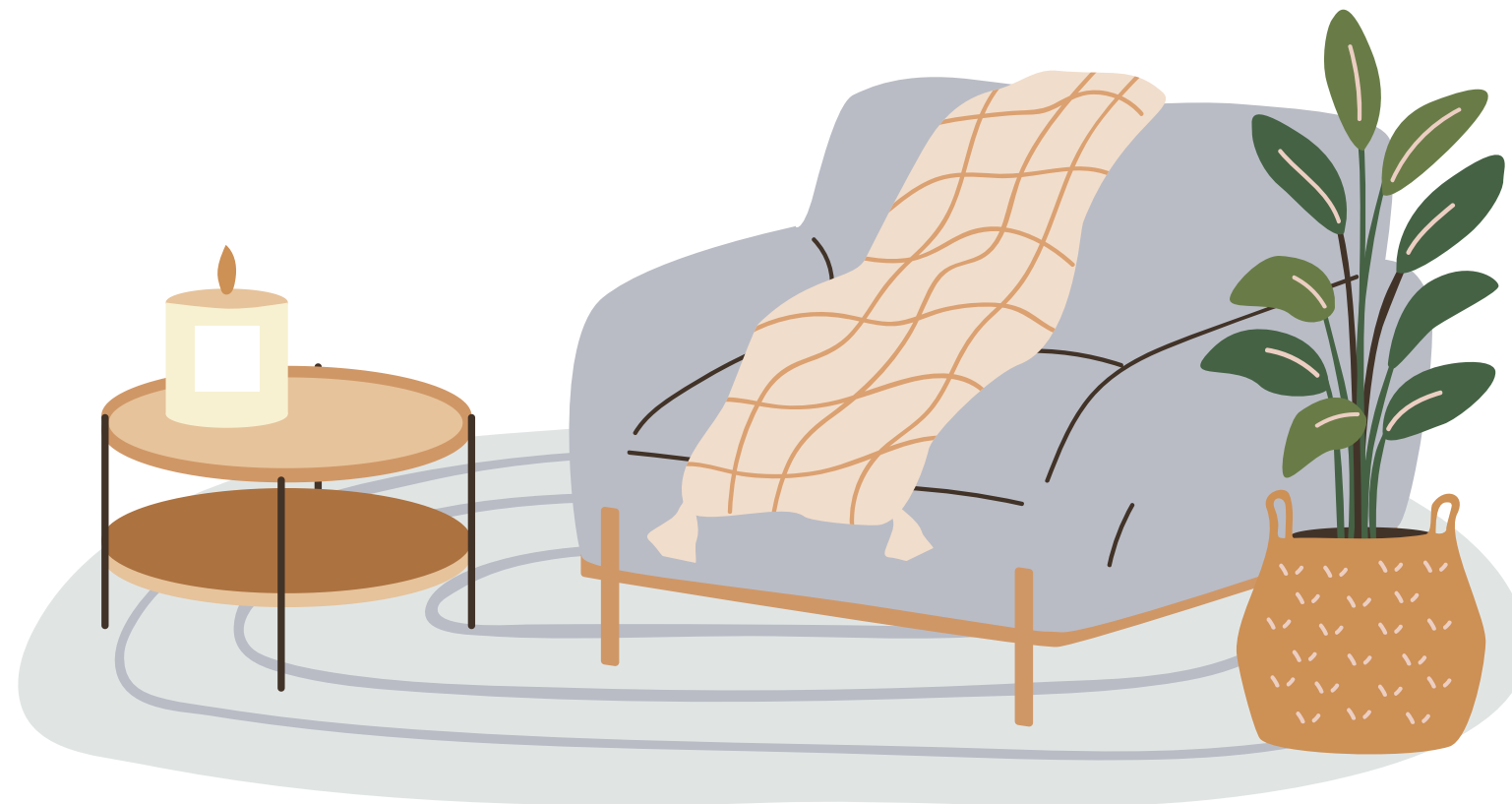


**The Arctic Inspiration Prize** is the largest annual prize in Canada. It inspires, enables, and celebrates the achievements of the people of the North, recognizing diverse teams with innovative projects in the fields of education; health and wellbeing; culture, arts and language; science and traditional knowledge; climate change; food security; and the economy.

**Nominator:** Lesa Semmler MLA, Inuvik Twin Lakes

**Team:** Peggy Day (Team Leader), William Hurst, Veronica Kasook, Susan Peffer.

This report was compiled and created by the **Qatalyst Research Group**, with the help of Peggy Jay, the project team, and AIP.



## HOPE HOUSE, A REFUGE FOR THE HOMELESS

Everyone is welcome at Hope House, where a coffee or tea and good company are waiting.

**Hope House** opened their doors on October 24th, 2022. AIP provided funding for operating expenses including rent, management and staffing position, and some programming for the most vulnerable in the community. Currently, Hope House has one manager and four staff.

The goal of **Hope House** is to create an opportunity, an avenue, a place to decompress and think about the life being lived and what opportunities are available. It's a refuge for those who need it. The personnel and various programming offered ensure that those who visit are safe and comfortable, and have access to the resources and supports they need.

Hours of Operation; Monday to Friday, 9am-9pm



Photo by Eric Bowling/NNSL.

## A COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH TO PROVIDE NEEDED SUPPORT

**“We’re training our own people to help support their own people, and that’s where it should be, I believe. Because they understand where they come from, they understand what our homeless [have] been through and they’re empathetic”.**  
**(Peggy Day)**

Hope House partners with local resources and community members to provide additional support in its space. For example:

- GNWT community counselors, when available, offer services a few times a week
- 2 GNWT Wellness workers visit to offer workshops
- Arctic Sobriety offers programming every Friday
- Members of the Inuvik Justice Committee (IJC) visit regularly to deliver workshops and offer food packages to clients
- Community donations of food, clothing, fur, or beads and other crafting items for workshops.



## HOPE HOUSE OFFERS MORE THAN A SHELTER: A PLACE TO GATHER AND REFLECT

In 2023, Hope House received over **3,500 visits**. In addition to offering a safe and warm space for individuals experiencing homelessness where they can relax and have a bite to eat, the space offers a range of programming and workshops attended by community members who participated in various programming or workshops.

The programming offered is focused on helping participants live healthier, more fulfilling lives. The examples of workshops offered include:

- Healthy Relationships workshop (IJC)
- Nutrition Bingo (IJC)
- Public Health Gathering luncheon
- Men's program
- Community Wellness programming
- Arctic Circle Sobriety Women
- National Addiction Awareness week gathering/luncheon
- AYDA programs for women
- Feelings, Emotions, and Resources Bingo (IJC)
- Healing Circle
- Grief Literacy sit & sew
- Sing-a-longs



## HOPE HOUSE OFFERS MORE THAN SHELTER: CULTURAL CONNECTION

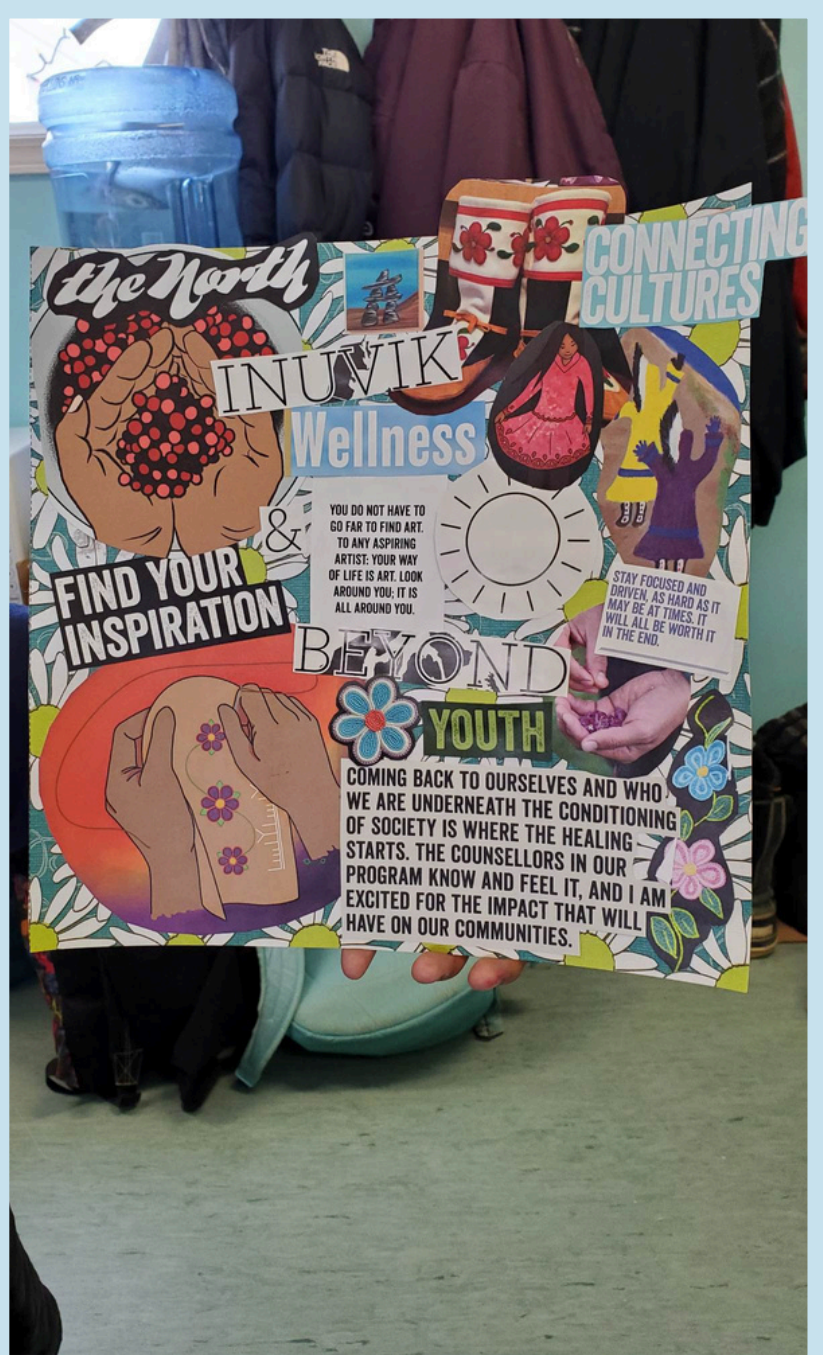
Hope House also offers various traditional and cultural workshops which are planned and organized by staff members who invite Elders and Knowledge Keepers to lead them.

Some workshops included:

- Ookpik making
- Men's parka making
- Mitt-string making
- Napajuk fish hook making
- Harpoon making
- Ulu making
- Children's canvas mukluk making
- Ski-pant making
- Beaded earring making
- Children's mukluk making
- Soapstone carving
- Seal skin mitt making



# HOPE HOUSE IS ALSO A PLACE WHERE ONE CAN BEAD, GET ART SUPPLIES, AND PLAY NUTRITIONAL BINGO



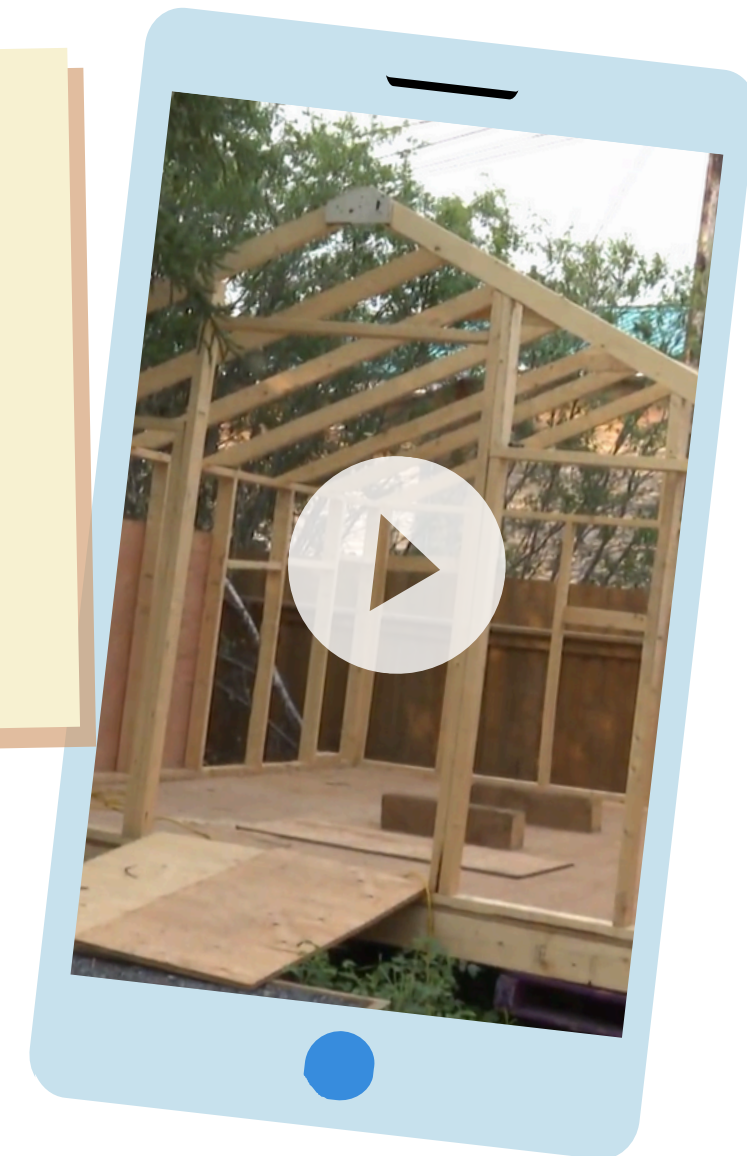
## A PLACE THAT BRINGS THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Hope House has provided space for the most vulnerable to come together and support each other, building a sense of belonging. The space is being used by community members who are lonely and need a space to connect, share stories, play games, and share food.

The broader community also has more empathy for those struggling with addiction. They offer donations and support Hope House in many different ways.

**“So I walked in and I just immediately felt at home because there were different people there you could talk to ... and you’re not outside in the cold, so it was really cool. You had snacks all day and coffee and tea was on constantly and yeah, it was just so nice to be able to come somewhere and be able to relate to them”.**  
**(Former participant)**

**“There are always community members dropping by with food or snacks, to chat with clients and share stories”**





## REBUILDING LIVES

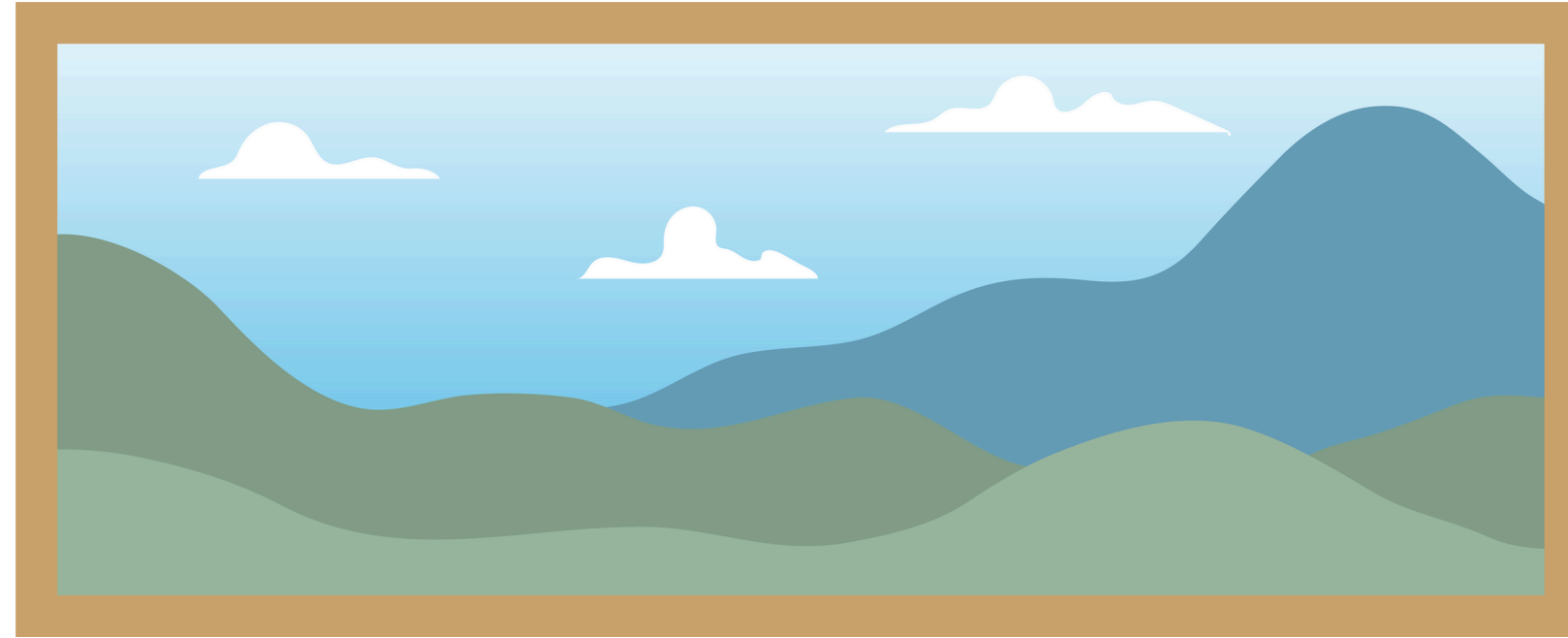
Some of those employed by Hope House have experience homelessness themselves and are now employed and helping others.

**A computer is on hand for people seeking to work on resumes, housing applications, or other paperwork.**

**Hope House staff advocate for and support clients with the GNWT system and access to housing, social assistance, and homeless shelters.**



## LOOKING AHEAD



Hope House management and staff hope to open its doors on the weekend and support individuals who may be working in the camps and have nowhere to go on Saturdays and Sundays.

They also hope to offer additional cultural and other programming in the outside tents.

While Hope House is focused on its own programming and initiatives, they do hope that their work will inspire others to create transitional housing for those who need it or would benefit from supported living.

## PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

### **Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC)**

Funds from their homelessness Initiatives, staffing, general support.

### **Inuvialuit Development Corporation (IDC)**

Secured the house, and provide cleaning services, maintenance, etc.

### **Government of NWT**

Help with training dollars and for providing counselling support and services.

Partners include Inuvik Justice Community, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Aurora College, GNWT (ECE), Arctic Circle Sobriety.

