

OVERVIEW

The K'ásho Got'jné Housing Society (KGHS) addresses housing and housing related issues in the community of Fort Good Hope. Incorporated in 2016, KGHS was inspired by an initiative of the K'ásho Got'jné First Nation that occurred in the 1970s. At that time, the Band incorporated a society that supported residents to use public funding to build their own homes. The program is fondly remembered in Fort Good Hope, as it not only created homes, but it also created opportunities for residents to apply and build their skills, knowledge, and confidence in home construction and maintenance.

TODAY, KGHS'S WORK IS GUIDED BY FIVE OVERARCHING GOALS AS OUTLINED IN OUR STRATEGIC PLAN.



A washout in a road in Fort Good Hope during the spring thaw, 2023.

CREDIT: KORRY GARVEY



Erosion of the riverbank along the Mackenzie River is creeping closer to homes and buildings. (2023).

GOAL 1

Fort Good Hope's most vulnerable residents have homes with integrated support services

KÁDÚYÍLE SUPPORTED LIVING PROGRAM

This program provides affordable and safe housing options for individuals that is supported by integrated case management and programming. To date the program consists of a group transition home (opened in January 2021) with four private rooms for men who may otherwise be insecurely housed. KGHS plans to expand the program by adding new 3-bedroom independent supported living units, with residency expected in fall 2024.

Since opening the home, operations costs of the men's home have ranged from \$275,000 - \$350,000 per year. These costs include wages for staff, training for staff, utilities, food, wellness program costs (programs are often open to community members as well), minor repair and maintenance, and project management fees.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HOUSING OPTIONS

One of KGHS's initial objectives was to develop a women and children's safe home, providing safe shelter in emergency situations and supporting women transitioning to longer term options. Currently, YWCA NWT is operating a safe home in Fort Good Hope, which is funded until March 2025. KGHS has been exploring funding options to build a new shelter facility as well as four second stage housing units, which will be available to women and children throughout the Sahtú. KGHS has applied for federal funding for this project and, if successful, expects to have the new shelter and second stage housing units in operation by Fall 2025.

GOAL 2

Fort Good Hope residents are able to access materials, knowledge, and support to repair and maintain their homes.

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP TRADES TRAINING

Through a multi-year federal fund totalling over \$2 million, KGHS has been able to work with partners including Aurora College and the local high school, to offer pre-apprenticeship trades training programs to residents. Some of these programs include:

- Supporting Fort Good Hope high school students to travel to Fort Smith to attend a week of Aurora College's Trades Awareness Program.
- Partnering with Aurora College to run multi-month trades programs in the community of Fort Good Hope for adult students.
- Partnering with the local high school to recruit and hire a trades teacher.

REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

KGHS works closely with several partners, including the Yamoga Land Corporation, Ne'Rahten Developments Ltd., Housing NWT, and local subcontractors, to ensure that Fort Good Hope residents have access to timely home repairs and maintenance.

PRIVATE HOMES AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

KGHS is also involved in studying the flood, erosion, and permafrost thaw risks to housing in the community and developing ways to mitigate those risks by addressing drainage, determining good land for new developments, and exploring options to move at risk buildings.

Construction of new homes in Fort Good Hope meets need and demand.

GOAL 3



Renderings of a new Construction Centre, from Taylor Architecture Group

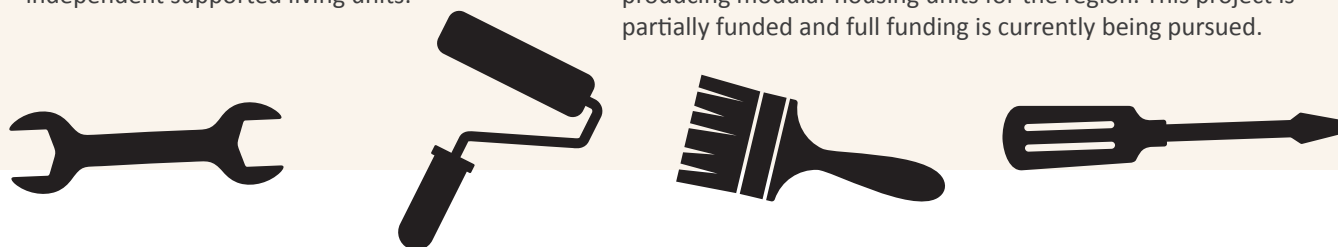


NEW MODULAR HOMES

KGHS has secured funding to build and install new modular housing. These units will have mixed use, with some being available for market rental to help offset costs, and others available for affordable and independent supported living units.

CONSTRUCTION CENTRE

KGHS has partnered with NDL and Yellowknife-based architecture firm, Taylor Architecture Group, to build and operate a new Construction Centre in the community that will offer hands-on construction training to Sahtú-residents, while simultaneously producing modular housing units for the region. This project is partially funded and full funding is currently being pursued.



GOAL 4

K'ásho Got'ıne Housing Society strengthens staff capacity and program efficacy over time.

Goal 4 outlines the commitment to prioritize local hiring and invest in staff capacity building, through training and mentorship opportunities. It also outlines the importance of providing staff, client, and community members with regular opportunities for reflection and discussion about existing programs. This feedback can then be used to inform improvements in activities.



Northern Leadership Development Program graduation ceremony, spring 2023.

Left to right: Arthur Tobac, David Stewart, Justin Jackson, and Tom Ashley of Ne'Rahten Development Ltd.

CREDIT: KORRY GARVEY



Fort Good Hope Housing Forum, January 2023

CREDIT: KORRY GARVEY

GOAL 5

Strong, transparent governance encourages widespread community engagement and collaboration.

Currently, KGHS is governed by the members who sit on the Fort Good Hope Dene Band Council. In 2024, KGHS will begin further engagement with community members regarding a broader community approach. This approach would look to changing the governance structure to include one member from each of the three local leadership organizations, as well as elected members of the community who have a vested interest in housing. KGHS would also like to ensure there are specific positions open only to younger community members, to encourage more engagement in governance from the younger generations.

KGHS also understands the importance of strong partnerships in the community, territorial, and nationally. For example, Fort Good Hope has recently developed a working group with Housing NWT, which meets quarterly, to discuss all joint activities and move towards self-government.

Please visit our website www.kghs.ca for more information.