



March 22, 2024

Open Letter on Community Wellness and Safety

As your Chief and Council, we stand firmly in our duty to promote and nurture our community's wellbeing, especially in light of the substance use crisis declared on April 20, 2023. We are here to support all our citizens through healing and wellness initiatives and to enhance safety within our community.

Supporting Citizens

Our approach is comprehensive and non-judgmental, focused on harm reduction. We encourage everyone affected to seek assistance, assuring you that our support extends to all, irrespective of your situation. Recent activities like the Addictions Awareness Week are important. We understand the need for more individual outreach, and we're working on it. Our commitment is to:

- Facilitate easier access to treatment for those in need.
- Develop an aftercare program to provide support in our community.
- Ensure constant availability of counsellors, both locally and remotely.
- Expand outreach with personalized care plans, focusing on prevention for families and youth.
- Collaborate with federal and territorial governments, along with organizations like Blood Ties Four Directions, to reinforce our response.

We are eager to hear from you to enhance our support systems. Your feedback is crucial, so please reach out to any Council member or our Health and Social Services team with your thoughts or needs.

Reducing Supply of Substances in Old Crow

Regarding the reduction of harmful substances in Old Crow, our partnership with the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) unit is vital. This specialized unit addresses community concerns about drug trafficking and bootlegging.

If you have concerns, you can confidentially contact SCAN via email at SCAN@yukon.ca, or by phone at 456-SCAN (7226) or toll-free in Yukon at 1-866-530-SCAN (7226). They will handle your concerns with discretion and respect. For more information about their services, please visit the Yukon government's SCAN page: <https://yukon.ca/en/scan>.

Together, we can foster a healthier, safer community.

Sincerely,

Chief and Council
Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation