

January 7, 2025

Re: Rental Space at Recreation Centre

Dear Mayor Atkinson and Council,

Mackenzie Community Services is applying for funding to bring Integrated Youth Services to Mackenzie/McLeod Lake. We would appreciate your consideration and approval of the following:

1. Mackenzie Community Services with a letter of support from Foundry, will be applying for The Youth Mental Health Fund (YMHF) offering funding of up to \$500,000 per fiscal year for projects lasting up to 48 months. The funding being applied for is Federal therefore, we would have to comply with their terms of the contract if awarded funding. Foundry would guide and support as much as possible.

Integrated Youth Services is a much needed service in the community. IYS provides support services in one place for youth to access. The plan is to have a couple of private offices where youth can access virtual Foundry services. The main area will have a sitting area, entertainment area etc. It'll be a space where youth can be heard and supported as needed. We will begin as a pilot program with the hope of extending to a much larger support centre in the future.

We ask Mayor and Council to support Mackenzie Community Services with this project. We ask for a letter of support to attach to the application mentioned above. The application deadline is January 22, 2025. We kindly ask for a letter of support to be submitted to MCS by January 20, 2025.

2. Mackenzie Community Services plans to have a safe space in an area of town frequented by youth. MCS is requesting Mayor and Council to consider and approve the rental and utilization of the upper floor room in the Recreation Centre along with the washroom and office space in the back. It'll serve as a space of wellness and reset for youth 12-24 in our community.
Mackenzie Community Services is also requesting Mayor and Council to approve renovation of the back office. It is requested to add a wall in the middle of the office to make two offices. This will provide a private, confidential spaces where youth can access virtual Foundry services, receive peer support, one on one sessions etc.

We are also requesting Mayor and Council to approve any additional renovations needed to make the space comfortable for our youth.

We hope that you, Mayor and Council, will support the project of Integrated Youth Services in Mackenzie for our Mackenzie/McLeod Lake youth. Writing a letter of support and approving the rental and renovations of the room on the upper floor, the bathroom and back office of the Recreation Centre will greatly assist in introducing Integrated Youth Services to our community.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sasha van den Berg
Executive Director
Mackenzie Community Services