



NAOSH Week

The goal of the North America Occupational Safety and Health week is to focus employers, employees, partners and the public on the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace, at home and in the community. In other words, to remind everyone to be vigilant about ensuring safety in everything that we do!

YACCS' is recognizing NAOSH week by: having a coffee and cake party for staff and residents at 3 PM, today, (Tuesday, May 3rd) in the Aven Manor Dining Room. Please join us.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Once every 3 months, a team of YACCS' employees do a complete Health and Safety Inspection of all of YACCS' facilities. This includes an inspection of all of the resident's rooms, all work sites, all storage areas and all common gathering areas. Deficiencies and problems are noted by the team members and work orders to correct all problems are given to Maintenance personnel.
2. Once per year, a Safety Inspector from the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC) (formerly the Worker's Compensation Board (WCB)) performs a complete safety inspection of all of YACCS' work sites. Any work orders that are issued by the WSCC are quickly dealt with to ensure compliance with the optimum workplace health and safety standards, as established by the WSCC.
3. Once per year, an Environmental Health Officer from the GNWT's Department of Health & Social Services inspects YACCS' kitchen

facilities and food preparation processes to ensure that food is stored, prepared and presented in accordance with optimum safety standards.

4. Once per year, YACCS' facilities are inspected by the Yellowknife Fire Department to ensure that YACCS is compliant with all fire department safety and prevention codes.



How can you help make 'your' home and 'our' workplace safer?

Residents and all staff are asked to be vigilant about safety and health in both Aven Manor and Aven Cottages. If you see **anything** that you think may pose a risk to yourself, another resident, another employee **or** a visitor, please tell a senior staff member so that the risk can be eliminated.



NAOSH WEEK PLANS

The Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors (YACCS) has scheduled the following activities to celebrate/recognize the 2011 NAOSH Week:

1. Coffee and cake party in the Dining Room of Aven Manor at 3 PM on Tues., May 3rd. The focus of the party will be '**safety in the workplace and safety in the home.**' All staff and all residents from both Aven Manor (long term care facility) and Aven Cottages (the new territorial dementia facility) have been

invited. Members of YACCS' Board of Directors have also been invited to attend this afternoon coffee party.

2. A safety newsletter, attached, will accompany each employee's pay 'advice' on April 29, 2011.
3. YACCS has requested that the following annual health and safety –related (compulsory) workplace inspections be conducted during NAOSH week:
 - i. -WSCC
 - ii. -Environmental Health Inspector (kitchen facility and dietary processes).
4. While not specifically 'NAOSH Week' -related, posters were displayed throughout YACCS' facilities advising both staff and residents about the Day of Mourning (April 28th).
5. YACCS' CEO chaired a full-staff meeting yesterday afternoon, prior to the scheduled 'Safety –focused' coffee and cake party with the residents of Aven Manor and Aven Cottages. The topic matters of the full-staff meeting were all safety (in the workplace) related. They included:
 - a. YACC's Emergency Response Plan (EMR) has been updated and all staff were provided with a copy of the updated Plan. An accompanying quiz about the updated EMR was given to each staff member and prizes will be awarded to respondents with the most correct answers.
 - b. The Maintenance Manager announced that there will be weekly fire drills (in various areas of the facilities) during the month of May.
 - c. Compulsory wheel chair safety training sessions have been scheduled for all staff between now and the end of June 2011.





FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO



SAFETY AT WORK – DAY OF MOURNING AND NAOSH WEEK

On Tuesday, May 3, we will be celebrating NAOSH Week here with a cake and coffee get-together in the Manor Dining Room at 3 PM. Residents of both the Manor and the Cottages will join with the staff to celebrate this annual event. The Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC) also has some activities planned for "Safety Week" that you can see on their website (www.wsccl.ca/NAOSH).

Safety at work is important all the time, not just during Safety Week. Our YACCS' Values state that "Safety is paramount in everything we do." Our Health and Safety internal policies confirm this. If you are aware of anything that impedes the safety of residents, clients or staff, please bring it to the attention of your supervisor or to me. I am committed to providing a safe workplace at YACCS.

The National Day of Mourning for workplace fatalities is Thursday, April 28, so it may have passed by the time you read this, but I want to recognize the importance of this event. You may know someone who has been fatally injured at work. I do, and it's an unnecessary loss. When my friend went to work on a construction site in the morning, I know that his wife did not expect that she wouldn't see him again.

We work in an industry that is not very prone to workplace fatalities, but we always need to be vigilant. Thank you for helping to make YACCS a safe workplace for our employees and a safe home for our residents. I'd also like to thank Tony White, Deb O'Connell and the Occupational Health and Safety Committee, for keeping safety high on the agenda here.

John Doyle, CEO

YACCS' administration staff and members of UNW Local 25 will sponsor a cake and coffee get-together
Congratulations!

on **Tuesday, May 03rd at 3 PM** in the Manor Dining
questions

Room to celebrate and recognize the importance of
Quiz!

Safety in all that we do: work, home and play!
Judith!

Please join us for cake & coffee!

WINNER – Judith Beltran won last
month's Safety Quiz.

She correctly answered **ALL** of the

from Tony's YACCS' –specific Safety

(Enjoy your special treats from M&M Meats,



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SAFETY & HEALTH:

A Commitment for Life

NAOSH week (the first week of May) presents an excellent opportunity for YACCS' to focus, reinforce, and strengthen its commitment to: occupational safety and health for all of its employees; and ensure that its residential facilities are as safe and healthy as is possible.

Studies have shown that Employers that participate and get involved in NAOSH Week activities positively impact:

- Improved attitudes towards safety.
- Increased understanding of the importance of occupational safety and health.
- Nurturing a safety-minded culture in the workplace.
- Increased cooperation (concerning safety issues) between employees, the Employer, safety committees and safety professionals.
- Improved communication and contributions to team building between employees, safety committees, and safety professionals.

YACCS' is proud to support any and all activities that will serve to strengthen its commitment to ensuring its workplaces and workplace task processes are healthy and safe; and to providing all of its residents with safe and healthy home-like living conditions.

If **you** have any ideas about how YACCS' could improve workplace or residential health and safety matters, please make sure you bring your idea to the attention of your Supervisor or drop a short note (about your safety idea) in any one of the several suggestions boxes that are located throughout the YACCS' facilities. Your suggestions are always welcome!

LET'S MAKE WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY VISIBLE IN ALL THAT WE DO!

REMINDER: *The Meal Plan is a privilege, not a right.* The Meal Plan Policy is currently under review by the Senior Management Team. While this review is being conducted, employees that are **not** paying for their meals through **payroll deduction** are asked to ensure that they **always** have

the correct and accurate change for each meal or snack that they wish to purchase. Kitchen staff does not always have access to a cash box and they do not have the time to be chasing 'down' change for individual staff members. Change can be obtained from Administration staff during normal office hours. Afternoon or night shift workers must bring the correct change to work if they are intending to purchase a meal or snack. If correct change is not available, no meal/snack can be taken.