

STAFF PROFILE: KAREN WASICUNA - TRANSITIONAL RENT SUPPLEMENT COORDINATOR

Karen Wasicuna has been an employee of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation since 2000 and an employee with the GNWT for 16 years. She is currently the Transitional Rent Supplement Program (TRSP) Coordinator. Karen has held the position since the program was formed in September 2012. She began her career at the NWT HC as the Records Coordinator, a position in which she developed and implemented operational records classification schedule in accordance with GNWT guidelines, ensured records complied with regulations, records training, among other responsibilities.



Karen started with Programs and District Operations in April 2012. Prior to that, she was Manager of the NWT HC's Information Services Section since November 2011, and was Acting Manager of that Section before that. She said it was an exciting opportunity to be able to take on a new role within the corporation. When TRSP was developed "Programs and District Operations thought I might be a good fit for it," Karen said, adding "it was great to be part of the program at inception."

Struggling To Pay Your Rent?

- Are you paying more than 30% of your income towards rent?
- Are you 19 years or older?
- Have you lived in the Northwest Territories for at least one year?

If so, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation's **Transitional Rent Supplement Program** can pay up to \$500 of your rent for up to two years!

 NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HOUSING CORPORATION

Visit our website www.nwthc.gov.nt.ca
Email us at NWTHC_TRSP@gov.nt.ca

TRSP is available across the territory. It is a rent supplement program. Clients can apply to have up to \$500 of their rent supplemented for a period of up to two years.

The Transitional Rent Supplement Program is designed to aid NWT residents living in market rental housing who have low to moderate income. Clients can receive a subsidy up to a maximum of \$500 a month, for a maximum period of two years, which is paid directly to the landlord. The subsidy amount is designed to help bring their monthly shelter costs down to 30% of household income.

While staff in the district offices and local housing organizations take applications for the TRSP program, Karen is the sole individual overseeing all areas of its operation. "I deliver, monitor and maintain the program," she said. "One of my favorite things about (the job) is working with the clients." Karen said she receives a lot of positive feedback from TRSP clients and is looking forward to seeing more people go through the program. "We have clients all over," she said.

Karen grew-up in Yellowknife. She is a graduate of Sir John Franklin High School and also attained a Bachelor of Fine Arts from York University in Toronto. Karen teaches the NWT HC's Solutions to Educate People course in Yellowknife. She has also been a dance instructor for 18 years; currently she teaches with Bella Dance Academy. She and her husband, Robin, have a 13-year-old daughter, Gabby. She also helps with his successful food truck business and have plans to soon open a restaurant in Yellowknife.