

Draft

ANALYSIS: FIRST NATIONS HOUSING, FEDERAL BUDGET 2022; APRIL 20, 2022

1. Numbers:

- a. Needs identified by AFN research = \$60B/19 years or \$6.67B/yr
- b. Federal planned spending 22-27 that builds/renovates houses = \$1.46B/yr avg.
- c. Shortfall to solve the housing crisis = \$5.51B/yr
- d. Federal planned spending on annual Sec 95 subsidies = no new houses built.
- e. Self-governing First Nations seem to get a larger per year investment than non-self-governing First Nations.

2. Summary Comments:

- Budget 2022 committed one of the largest ever annual and five-year increases (\$3B/5yrs)
- Does not come close to the estimate of First Nations housing needs.
- Investment falls significantly short of solving the First Nations housing crisis.
- March 2022, Min. Hajdu, "...to make immediate and long-term (housing) investments" to close the housing gap by 2030..."
- March 2022, Min. Hussen, "...ensure...federal...multi year investments...to bring First Nations housing to par with the rest of Canada."
- To close the housing gap by 2030, \$60B to be accelerated over 9 years, not 19.
- One recently created First Nation transfer of services entity gets a 10-year funding commitment compared to 5-year commitments to other First Nations.
- If First Nations choose the option to transfer the housing and infrastructure services to their control, the Budget shows they will get preferential treatment.
- Off-community First Nations citizens have the same right to housing in their home community as any First Nations citizen no matter where they live.
- Federal Government should say clearly what share of housing costs it expects First Nations to pay.
- Onus on federal representatives to explain to First Nations leaders why the full required investment was not made.
- Underfunding often pits First Nations & their regions against each other to access their fair share of funds, a long-practiced colonial divide and conquer tactic.
- If AFN's numbers are inaccurate, the onus is on the federal government to communicate the real numbers, to be more data-transparent and provide distinctions-based data.
- Federal housing assistance to First Nations in the north is unclear. (\$60 million to the Government of the Northwest Territories and \$30 million to the Government of Yukon both for housing that will be allocated over two years.)
- Further analysis is required to determine if the Budget 2022 community infrastructure commitments will match the increase in housing.