



# National Housing and Infrastructure Conference

## *Mind the Gap: Advancing First Nations Housing, Infrastructure, and Drinking Water*

February 19-21, 2025 | Westin Calgary | Calgary, Alberta

### AGENDA

#### Day 1 – Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Time	Activity	Location
7:30 a.m.	<b>Registration</b>	South Foyer, Conference Level
7:30 a.m.	<b>Hot Breakfast</b>	South Foyer
8:30 a.m.	<b>Information Tables Open</b>	South and West Foyers
9:00 a.m.	<b>Opening Ceremonies &amp; Welcoming Remarks</b> <i>Conference Emcee: Cedric Gray-Lehoux</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drum Song – Buffalo Tracks</li> <li>• Knowledge Keeper/Elder Gerald Sitting Eagle, Siksika Nation</li> <li>• Welcome Remarks from Piikani Nation Chief Troy Knowlton, Chairman of the Blackfoot Confederacy</li> </ul>	Britannia/Belaire/Mayfair
9:20 a.m.	<b>Video Address by National Chief Cindy Woodhouse Nepinak</b>	
9:30 a.m.	<b>Setting the Context for the Conference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell, AFN Housing and Infrastructure Portfolio Holder</li> </ul>	
9:45 a.m.	<b>Keynote Address</b> <i>Chief Lance Haymond, Kebaowek First Nation/Project Director for the Yänonhchia' Housing Finance Initiative</i>	
10:15 a.m.	Health Break	South Foyer
10:30 a.m.	<b>Concurrent Workshops #1 – #5</b>	
<b>Workshop #1</b> 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<b>Transfer of Housing Services to First Nations Control</b> <i>Presenters: Jessica Gordon, Indigenous Services Canada; Marcel Vautour, Indigenous and Northern Housing Policy, CMHC; Alex Ker, NVision Insight Group Inc.</i> ISC's transfer of services initiative supports many First Nations and their representative organizations in working with ISC toward First Nations assuming control of housing programs currently administered by ISC. The Auditor General of Canada, in her March 2024 report on on-reserve housing recommended, and ISC accepted, that ISC work with First Nations to co-develop a policy framework to help guide discussions.  NVision Insight Group Inc., an Indigenous consulting group, has just completed a research report that examined the factors and conditions required to ensure First Nations control of housing succeeds. CMHC is gathering data and co-developing its approach leading to a recommendation to the federal government on its transfer of services initiative. Participants will learn about the progress being made as well	Britannia/Belaire/Mayfair <i>Simultaneous Interpretation Available</i>



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<b>Workshop #1</b> 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	as challenges and gain a sense of the overall direction of this important initiative that will lead to First Nations exercising their jurisdiction and control of their housing systems. The session will also include an opportunity for Q&A.	Britannia/Belaire/Mayfair <i>Simultaneous Interpretation Available</i>
<b>Workshop #2</b> 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p><b>Advancing Indigenous Procurement: A Framework for Reconciliation</b>  <i>Presenter: Joseph Wabegijig, Colliers Project Leaders</i></p> <p>Championing Indigenous procurement is vital to fostering self-determination, economic empowerment and sustainable community growth. Aligned with the Assembly of First Nations’ priorities, an intentional approach will integrate capacity-building, collaboration and innovative procurement practices tailored to Indigenous communities’ unique needs.</p> <p>Attend this presentation to explore how Indigenous procurement can drive local economic development, enhance project outcomes and strengthen Nation-to-Nation partnerships. The presenter will share strategies, such as prioritizing Indigenous-owned businesses, implementing set-aside programs, and building local capacity through knowledge-sharing initiatives.</p>	Rideau/Mount Royal/Lakeview
<b>Workshop #3</b> 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p><b>Lessons Learned: “Ote Nikan Nipiy” – An Indigenous Worldview in the Pursuit for Nipiy (Water) Justice</b>  <i>Presenters: Norine Littlechild, Samson Cree Nation; Adam Kuehnbaum, Indigenous Services Canada</i></p> <p>Since 2013, a passionate group made up of staff, leadership, Elders, youth, academia, industry partners and professionals have been working together to improve our 10,000+ members’ access to safe, reliable and sustainable drinking water. Our centralized water and wastewater systems were in active states of failure (~22+km of pipe, wells &amp; treatment systems). Our centrally managed, decentralized water and wastewater systems (1,000+ individual systems) have been chronically underfunded for generations, and we have consistently had drinking water advisories on hundreds of systems annually. Since 2013, we have upgraded our centralized wastewater systems, started to replace our centralized water system, and addressed over 100 drinking water advisories. Our initial group of passionate volunteers has grown into 12+ full time staff. We continue to build capacity and our ability to assert our Inherent and Treaty rights, but there is still a long way to go to consistently meet the basic needs of our members and millions of dollars in physical and organizational infrastructure deficit to overcome.</p>	Bonavista Room



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<b>Workshop #4</b> 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p><b>Housing: Formal Education &amp; Women-Led Modular Construction</b>  <i>Presenters: Sylvia Olsen, Vancouver Island University; Colleen Carpenter, Keepers of the Circle</i></p> <p>Dr. Olsen will present an overview of the First Nations Housing Manager Certificate Program. The online program, the first of its kind in the country, is being taught by Frank French from Chippewas of the Thames First Nations. Vancouver Island University (VIU) has been delivering the program since 2008 and has had dozens of graduates. Dr. Olsen will also introduce the audience to three (3) newly completed Micro Credential courses. These courses are designed to expand the Program and the scope of Housing Managers' knowledge and skills. VIU's goal is to prepare Housing Managers to build careers in the broad Indigenous Housing sector.</p> <p>Ms. Carpenter, Keepers of the Circle, will provide a presentation entitled "Indigenous Women-Led Housing Social Enterprise: Building Homes Our Way" which established an Indigenous women-led social enterprise in Kirkland Lake (Ontario) that focused on building modular homes that were designed with an Indigenous lens and were constructed to meet the needs of Northern climate conditions. This social enterprise will build capacity for the North to address the limited housing supply and the poor conditions of existing housing to reduce the rates of Indigenous homelessness and address core housing needs.</p>	Nakiska Room, Lower Level
<b>Workshop #5</b> 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p><b>Learning from Fire Death Data</b>  <i>Presenters: Michelle Vandevord, Executive Director, National Indigenous Fire Safety Council; Len Garis, Director of Research, National Indigenous Fire Safety Council</i></p> <p>A study of Canadian coroner data 2011-2021 will be presented and will suggest that unsafe homes, lack of working smoke alarms and lack of attention to correcting major housing repairs needed are among the factors in why Indigenous people in Canada die in fires more often than non-Indigenous people.</p>	Barclay Room, Lower Level
12:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch Provided</b>	South Foyer



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Time	Activity	Location
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	<p>Operator Training – Part #1  <i>Managing First Nations Drinking Water Systems</i>            Trainer: Gerald McGregor, OFNTSC  <i>Note: Trainees must attend Part #1 and Part #2 for credit</i></p> <p>This course is designed for <b>First Nations Chief and Council, managers and supervisors, and operators</b> who have operational responsibility for drinking water systems. This course provides an introduction to management practices related to the drinking water systems in First Nations communities.</p>	Lake Louise Room
1:15 p.m.	<b>Concurrent Workshops #6 – #10</b>	
<b>Workshop #6</b> 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<p><b>Strategic Planning for Housing</b>  <i>Presenters: Kelly Bitternose, First Nations Market Housing Fund; Scott Flamand, B.Comm, MBA, Flamand Management Service</i></p> <p>This joint presentation by the First Nations Market Housing Fund (Akwesasne) and Flamand Management Services (Wiwemikong) will demonstrate how a strategic housing plan can reduce risks for First Nations communities, including rent and mortgage arrears, while ensuring First Nation-owned homes are maintained through a dedicated maintenance strategy. The plan also aims to close the housing gap between on-reserve and off-reserve options, covering rental housing, transitional housing, home ownership, and rent-to-own models.</p> <p>Participants will learn how to identify trends and leverage existing data within their First Nations to build a comprehensive housing strategy. Additionally, the First Nations Market Housing Fund will outline its Capacity Development initiatives, showing how projects across Canada help communities create policies and programs that broaden housing options and support First Nations in empowering their members to own homes and take pride in their communities with the guidance of First Nation leadership. Success stories from across Turtle Island will highlight these achievements and provide inspiring examples of progress.</p>	Britannia/Belaire/Mayfair <i>Simultaneous Interpretation Available</i>





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Time	Activity	Location
<b>Workshop #7</b> 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<p><b>Raven Indigenous Outcomes Funds and Efficiency Manitoba</b>  <i>Presenters: Wahiakatste Diome-Deer, Raven Indigenous Outcomes Funds; Art Ladd, Efficiency Manitoba</i></p> <p>Raven Indigenous Outcomes Funds, Efficiency Manitoba, and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation have partnered to support First Nation communities in Manitoba with culturally appropriate capital financing and partnerships in service of First Nation communities and Mother Earth. Centered in community, Raven champions transformative change through a scalable approach that is decolonized, impact-centric, and grounded in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>Raven has pioneered a social finance tool called Community-Driven Outcomes Contracts (CDOC) in collaboration with First Nation communities, leveraging private, philanthropic and public capital to achieve better outcomes. Together, they are conducting community-based training, performing comprehensive home assessments, installing ground source heat pumps, and undertaking energy efficiency upgrades for sustainable and climate resilient housing infrastructure. Hear from Raven Indigenous Outcomes Funds and Efficiency Manitoba about the CDOC model, its history, evolution and successes in Ochekiwi Sipi (Fisher River Cree Nation), Oshki-ishkonigan (Peguis First Nation), and Wipazoka Wakpa (Sioux Valley Dakota Nation).</p>	Rideau/Mount Royal/Lakeview
<b>Workshop #8</b> 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<p><b>A Roadmap to Net-Zero Ready Homes in Musqueam First Nation</b>  <i>Presenters: Lenny Kishi, Housing Accountant, Musqueam Indian Band</i></p> <p>Musqueam Indian Band has partnered with British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) and BC Housing to research and develop a toolkit for assessing and developing best practices/strategies for energy efficiency retrofits in its existing homes. Through data gained from monitoring devices and developed relationships with community members, we can analyze, report, and assist households with selecting the best solutions for their changing energy needs. This project is minimally intrusive for households who often face challenges with home access and whose existing energy systems are inefficient and costly. This study is a part of CMHC’s National Housing Strategy Research and Planning Fund.</p>	Bonavista Room



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Workshop #8 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<b>Housing Skills and Capacity Development</b> <i>Presenters: Dustin Gorst, Regional Relations Coordinator (AB), First Nations Housing Professionals Association; Brenda Ross-Jerome, Christine Poucachiche and Tanu Lusignan, First Nations Adult Education School Council (FNAESC); Jody Linklater, First Nations YouthBuild Canada</i> First Nations control of housing depends on the availability of skilled workers, who in turn require training and work experience opportunities. Speakers from the First Nations Housing Professionals Association, the First Nations Building Officers Association, BC's First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and ZN Advisory and one of its First Nations clients, will each describe their housing capacity development initiatives, touching on a wide range of expertise that First Nations and their housing entities require to succeed.	Nakiska Room, Lower Level
Workshop #10 1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<b>Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation UFN HUB Project</b> <i>Presenter: Adam McCue, OFNTSC</i> The Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation's (OFNTSC) HUB project was launched in September 2020 with the goal of providing water and wastewater advisory and technical support services to the Unaffiliated First Nations and one (1) Large First Nation in Ontario. The HUB has demonstrated commitment and maturity as a new service through enhancing strong working relationships with clients and through the delivery of meaningful support services. The HUB supports communities' water operators with 24/7 access to certified operator assistance, mentorship, and on-site support. Our team assists with maintenance and maintenance planning, instrumentation repair and calibration, procurement processes, and provides valuable On the Job Training (OJT). The HUB team consists of certified drinking water and wastewater operators, Mechanical Millwright, Journeyman Electrician, and a Millwright Apprentice.	Barclay Room, Lower Level
2:45 p.m.	Health Break	South Foyer
3:15 p.m.	<b>Plenary Presentation: Closing the Infrastructure Gap – Economic Impacts</b> <i>Presenter: Alan Chaffe, Conference Board of Canada</i>	Britannia/Belaire/Mayfair
4:15 p.m.	Conference Day 1 Overview/Announcements	
4:30 p.m.	Adjourn for Day 1	
4:45 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.	<b>Networking Reception</b> Please join us for our Networking Reception taking place in the Bonavista Room/Foyer. Grab some refreshments, greet old friends and meet new friends after the Conference Day ends!	Bonavista Room/Foyer



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#### Day 2 – Thursday, February 20, 2025

Time	Activity	Location
8:00 a.m.	Registration	South Foyer
8:00 a.m.	Hot Breakfast	South Foyer
8:30 a.m.	Information Tables Open	South and West Foyers
8:45 a.m.	Overview of the Day	Britannia/Belaire/Mayfair
9:00 a.m.	<p><b>Funding Alternatives for Capital Infrastructure</b>  <i>Moderator: Craig Baker, First Nations Engineering Services</i>  <i>Panelists: Fred Di Blasio, Chief Executive Officer, Longhouse Capital Partners; Sahir Khan, Executive Vice President, Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy; Ian Bear, First Nations Finance Authority; Alan Rebane, B.Sc., M.A., Associated Engineering</i></p> <p>The AFN Closing the Infrastructure Gap study has identified an infrastructure deficit of \$349.2 billion of which \$208.9 billion is for core infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, electrification, etc.). However current federal infrastructure funding levels falls well short of meeting this deficit. What alternatives do First Nations have to accelerate the closing of the infrastructure gap?</p>	
10:15 a.m.	Health Break	South Foyer
10:30 a.m.	<b>Concurrent Workshops #11 – #15</b>	
<p><b>Workshop #11</b>            10:30 a.m. –            12:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Building Community Confidence in Eeyou Istchee Drinking Water</b>  <i>Presenters: Reggie Tomatuk, Dr. Catherine Dickson and Laurence Truong, Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay</i></p> <p>All nine (9) Eeyou Istchee Cree communities have autonomous control over their drinking water systems. Each community has a piped water system with regular monitoring and maintenance. Despite the good quality tap water, public confidence in drinking water is limited, with many preferring bottled or alternative water.</p> <p>We, as representatives of regional entities with mandates to support communities in ensuring the safety of their drinking water, are running an initiative to build confidence in local drinking water systems. We created a tabletop activity, bringing together the players involved in a drinking water advisory, to talk through the information sharing process. Water advisory templates with clear and simple messaging complemented this activity. This work aims to reduce public confusion, which could create uncertainty around the water.</p>	<p>Britannia/Belaire/Mayfair  <i>Simultaneous Interpretation Available</i></p>



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<b>Workshop #11</b> 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p>We are currently developing a campaign promoting tap water as a safe, healthy and inexpensive hydration source. We will share our experiences with these activities and our upcoming plans. This presentation highlights an Indigenous Success Story, linked to the conference theme through working to bridge the gap: by building local capacity to manage water advisories, reducing food insecurity through less reliance on bottled water, and preventing chronic disease by promoting water as a healthy hydration source.</p>	Britannia/Belaire/Mayfair <i>Simultaneous Interpretation Available</i>
<b>Workshop #12</b> 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p><b>Integrating Land Stewardship and Capital Planning: A Path to Community-Driven Infrastructure Development</b>  <i>Presenters: Joanna Recollet, P.Eng., Project Manager, First Nations Engineering Services Ltd.; Conor Smith, Narratives Inc.</i></p> <p>Whitefish River First Nation (WRFN) is in the process of preparing an update to its Capital Planning Study. Owing to the sense that its members need to be at the heart of its development decisions, WRFN revised the original scope of its Capital Planning Study update to include a “Land Stewardship Plan”. Unlike most conventional land use plans, this plan was intended to start with what mattered most to members: protection of the environment and living well within it. Modelled after the sugarbush, a sacred resource in WRFN, the plan informs development and servicing decisions on stewardship policies and practices, rather than the narrow focus on separation and allocation of land uses. With a long-term plan in place, Capital Planning can proceed with the confidence of members that their vision informs the Nation’s investments.</p> <p>The session will explore challenges First Nations face in planning—insufficient funding, lack of serviced lots, and capacity gaps—and demonstrate how thoughtful, community-driven planning creates a sense of community authorship over development. WRFN’s model ensures that development aligns with community priorities, avoids rushed decisions, and lays the groundwork for greater confidence in development, servicing, and growth.</p>	Rideau/Mount Royal/Lakeview





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#### Day 2 – Thursday, February 20, 2025

Time	Activity	Location
<b>Workshop #13</b> 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<b>Blackfoot Confederacy Comprehensive Asset Management Plan Pilot – Project Learnings and a Sample of AFN’s Asset Management Training Workshops</b> <i>Presenters: Christina Hopkins, Urban Systems; Arnold Jerry, Blackfoot Confederacy</i> The Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council has spent the past 2.5 years working with three (3) Blackfoot Nations to develop their first comprehensive Asset Management Plans. This project collected all available information about Nation infrastructure and developed projections for both capital and operations & maintenance needs. The projections included both ISC funded and unfunded infrastructure, where information was available. The Asset Management Plans built off the E-ACRS inspections completed for Blackfoot Nations in 2024. Please join the Confederacy to hear more about the process of developing asset management plans, the tools used (including the AFN’s Asset Management training materials), and project learnings.	Bonavista Room
<b>Workshop #14</b> 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<b>Canada’s Housing Plan: First Nations Housing and Programs of General Application</b> <i>Presenters: Rebecca Bornemann, Manager, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada; Gabrielle Feldmann, Senior Policy Advisor, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada</i> Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC) will provide an overview of Canada’s Housing Plan and open discussion on the role of general application housing programs in supporting First Nations housing. This is an opportunity to share perspectives on Canada’s Housing Plan and National Housing Strategy programs, what program elements work well (and not so well) for First Nations, and considerations for improving access and complementarity with distinctions-based and other Indigenous housing programs and initiatives. Topics could range from Public Lands for Homes Plan to the Affordable Housing Fund to the Industrial Strategy for Homebuilding.	Nakiska Room, Lower Level



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Workshop #15 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p><b>Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority's Health Hubs</b>  <i>Presenter: Janet Gordon, Chief Operating Officer, Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority</i></p> <p>The presenter will describe an initiative where they had built health hubs in several of their remote and isolated communities; they will discuss their experiences. The building of this infrastructure had allowed them to deliver health care service at the community level on a consistent basis and provide space for communities and tribal councils to deliver health programming.</p>	Barclay Room, Lower Level
12:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch Provided</b>	<b>South Foyer</b>
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	<p><b>Operator Training – Part #2</b>  <i>Managing First Nations Drinking Water Systems</i>  <i>Trainer: Gerald McGregor, OFNTSC</i>  <i>Note: Trainees must attend Part #1 and Part #2 for credit</i></p> <p>This course is designed for First Nations Chief and Council, managers and supervisors, and operators who have operational responsibility for drinking water systems. This course provides an introduction to management practices related to the drinking water systems in First Nations communities.</p>	Lake Louise Room
1:00 p.m.	<p><b>Panel Presentation – Financing of Housing</b>  <i>Moderator: Cedric Gray-Lehoux</i>  <i>Panelists: Wahiakatste Diome-Deer, Raven Indigenous Outcomes Funds; Chief Lance Haymond, Kebaowek First Nations/Project Director for the Yänonhchia' Housing Finance Initiative; Travis Seymour, First Nations Market Housing Fund</i></p> <p>Closing the housing gap on First Nations will require new funding and financing options. The panelists will describe their initiatives whose common thread is the financing of housing and related infrastructure. Two (2) of the initiatives will provide much needed exposure to the lesser-known social investment approach to financing housing projects. Businesses built on the social financing approach operate like other businesses except they direct all profits, not to shareholders or owners, but rather back into building the business to increase its capacity to further help First Nations. Yänonhchia' and the First Nations Market Housing Fund are two (2) First Nations-directed organizations set to offer more options for assistance to First Nations housing.</p>	Britannia/Belaire/Mayfair



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Time	Activity	Location
2:00 p.m.	<b>Concurrent Workshops #16 – #20</b>	
<b>Workshop #16</b> 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<p><b>ISC Tendering Policy Review and Updates</b>  <i>Presenter: Todd Keeseey, Acting Director of the Infrastructure Policy Modernization and Change Management Directorate, Indigenous Services Canada</i></p> <p>The Tendering Policy for ISC-funded capital projects for First Nations on-reserve has been in effect for over two (2) decades. This presentation will provide an update on upcoming changes to the Policy. The upcoming changes, with input from Assembly of First Nations (AFN), First Nations communities and ISC, aim at providing greater support for First Nations’ self-determination in tendering management and promoting socio-economic development in community including through the use of local resources. Transparency, fairness and accountability continue to be upheld in the policy to support sound financial and project management of capital projects funded by ISC.</p>	<p>Britannia/Belaire/Mayfair  <i>Simultaneous Interpretation Available</i></p>
<b>Workshop #17</b> 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<p><b>Housing Construction in First Nations</b>  <i>Presenters: Rod Hill and Karim Abraham, BC Housing, Government of British Columbia; Chris Stove and Robin Cayer-Stevens, First Nations National Building Officers Association; Ay’Den Abraham and Samuel Marty, Frog Lake First Nation; Mariam Djalili, Reimagine; Ben Li, Turko &amp; Associates; Ben Hildebrandt, SAIT</i></p> <p>The Assembly of First Nations’ National First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy (the Strategy) has four (4) pillars that must be addressed to ensure success in First Nations housing. The Strategy’s centerpiece is arranging for First Nations to take control of their housing systems. The key elements of any housing system are, its governance, the delivery of programs, funding and finance, skills and capacity development and information sharing, all which lead They all lead to housing construction in First Nations. Speakers will address new and evolving approaches and considerations related to housing construction.</p>	<p>Rideau/Mount Royal/Lakeview</p>



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<b>Workshop #18</b> 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<b>Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy</b> <i>Presenters: Dan Gaspé, Senior Housing Policy Advisor, AFN; Julianna Robertson, Atlantic Policy Congress; Guy Latouche, Quebec (video presentation); Connie Davis, BC First Nations Housing</i> Speakers from regional First Nations organizations and the Assembly of First Nations will address federal investments, messages from First Nations engagements, the policy framework, the non-First Nations organizations created and being created to allocate funds, plans and to provide answers to participant questions. Examples of regional and local First Nations funding agreements with ISC will be highlighted to show the range of possible uses of the 7-year fund that is still relatively in its early days. First Nations have approved plans they want to share on their use of URN housing funds as soon as they are received.	Bonavista Room
<b>Workshop #19</b> 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<b>Decentralised Drinking Water and Wastewater Expert Report: Technical Issues and Community-Level Risk Identification and Management Solution</b> <i>Presenters: Sheri Longboat, Wilfrid Laurier University; Megan Fuller, Dalhousie University; and, Norine Littlechild, Samson Cree Nation</i> The federal focus on lifting long-term drinking water advisories fails to acknowledge the serious public and environmental health risks in decentralised drinking water and wastewater systems. These critical systems provide services to over 25% of homes in First Nations and are un(der)funded due to inadequate federal policies. As a first step in gathering information about the state of decentralised systems in First Nations, the project team produced a collaborative report that: i) summarizes the accumulation of risks common in decentralised systems in First Nations (individual wells, cisterns, onsite septic systems); ii) describes how these systems are currently managed, including identifying significant gaps; and, iii) provides recommendations collected from First Nations and other participants to move towards First Nations-led asset management.  This presentation will share key findings of the report and provide an opportunity for ongoing discussion to address the significant risks present in decentralised systems in First Nations. This report does not represent First Nations consultation and must not take the place of meaningful and extensive First Nations co-development guided by free, prior and informed consent.	Nakiska Room, Lower Level





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<b>Workshop #20</b> 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<b>The First Mile Connectivity Consortium</b> <i>Presenters: Bill Murdoch, Clear Sky Connections; Phil Steinhauer-Mozejko, Indigenous Connectivity Institute; Tim Whiteduck, First Nations Education Council; Alfred Loon, Eeyou Communications Network</i> From Clear Sky Connections, this presentation introduces the First Mile Connectivity Consortium (FMCC), a national association of not-for-profit First Nation organizations with technical expertise in providing broadband services in First Nation communities. Founded in 2014, the FMCC was recently recognized by the AFN in Infrastructure and Connectivity through Resolution #07 /2024 as a Network of Professionals for the Support of First Nation Telecommunications. FMCC’s expertise is also recognized and cited by federal agencies, including the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.	Barclay Room, Lower Level
3:30 p.m.	Health Break	South Foyer
3:45 p.m.	<b>National First Nations Water Leadership Awards</b> The National First Nations Water Leadership Award recognizes leadership and outstanding dedication to the advancement of clean and safe drinking water, including water operations and water sustainability, in First Nation communities. The award recognizes the hard work, determination, and leadership of First Nations in raising awareness on water issues and in supporting access to clean drinking water in their communities. By highlighting the leadership in First Nations on water issues, ISC hopes that the winners can inspire others.	Britannia/Belaire/Mayfair
4:45 p.m.	Conference Day 2 Overview/Announcements	Britannia/Belaire/Mayfair
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn for Day 2	



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#### Day 3 – Friday, February 21, 2025

Time	Activity	Location
8:00 a.m.	Hot Breakfast	South Foyer
8:30 a.m.	Information Tables Open (until 12:00 p.m.)	South and West Foyers
9:00 a.m.	Overview of the Day	Britannia/Belaire/Mayfair
9:15 a.m.	<b>Collaborative Contracting Solutions for First Nations Community Water Projects</b> <i>Presenters: Rebecca Kragnes, Director, Indigenous Relations and Community Engagement and Taylor Green, Technical Director, Water and Environmental Infrastructure, Bird Construction</i>	
10:15 a.m.	Health Break	
10:45 a.m.	<b>Keynote: First Nations Drinking Water</b> <i>Regional Chief Terry Teegee (BC)</i>	South Foyer
11:15 a.m.	<b>Keynote: Additional Land for Housing</b> <i>Regional Chief Abram Benedict (ON)</i>	Britannia/Belaire/Mayfair
11:30 a.m.	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <i>Regional Chief Brendan Mitchell (NL)</i> Draws and Prizes	
11:45 a.m.	<b>Closing Ceremonies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge Keeper/Elder Gerald Sitting Eagle, Siksika Nation</li> <li>• Local Drum – Buffalo Tracks</li> </ul>	
12:00 p.m.	Conference Adjourns	