



DIALOGUE SESSION

URBAN, RURAL AND NORTHERN HOUSING AND FIRST NATIONS



MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023, 3:00 P.M.-4:30 P.M. • HALIFAX CONVENTION CENTRE, ROOM 201

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

The session will begin with a discussion surrounding Indigenous Services Canada's (ISC) delegated control of significant housing funds to a pan-Indigenous urban organization; this violates the spirit of co-development and distinctions-based processes. The discussion will then shift to identifying means to ensure housing funds benefit First Nations citizens living away from their communities. This is to the advancement of Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 57/2018, *National First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy*, which calls for the recognition of First Nations jurisdiction of housing for all First Nations citizens regardless of where they live.

Next, in support of AFN Resolution 60/2022, *First Nations Involvement in the Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy*, there will be dialogue on the development of a First Nations section of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing (URN) Strategy. The URN Strategy must reflect First Nations perspectives, priorities, and jurisdiction. Key sub-topics for this discussion include an overview of the Memorandum to Cabinet (MC) that will be developed and submitted in the fall, an update on \$4 billion over seven years committed in the 2023 Federal Budget, and how First Nations will influence the MC through a "Shadow MC" proposing policy reform supporting distinct long-term funding to deliver programs that meet the needs of First Nations in urban and rural locations, and in their traditional northern homelands. Cabinet secrecy rules prevent AFN from co-drafting the real MC; the "Shadow MC" that will be drafted by AFN is to influence the real MC.

Finally, the session will provide an opportunity to develop key arguments to be used in advocacy, such as the majority (58%) of Indigenous people in urban areas are First Nations and the solution to the off-reserve/off-community housing challenges must be led by First Nations. This means resolving the First Nations on-community housing crisis is a crucial component of addressing the urban Indigenous housing crisis and that the process to direct and deliver the First Nations portion of both urgent and long-term URN Strategy funds must be determined through a distinctions-based process with the AFN and First Nations.

SPEAKERS:

Assembly of First Nations Housing and Homelessness Sector, Senior Policy Advisor, Dan Gaspé
Assembly of First Nations Housing and Homelessness Sector, Director, Grace Martineau
British Columbia First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council (BCFNHIC), Executive Director
Michael Sadler



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Time	Agenda Item	Leads
3:00 p.m.	Welcome	Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse
	Opening Prayer/Thanksgiving	Knowledge Keeper Ma-Nee Chacaby
	Welcome and Introductions	Dan Gaspé, Assembly of First Nations Housing and Homelessness Sector, Senior Policy Advisor Grace Martineau, Assembly of First Nations Housing and Homelessness Sector, Director
	Urban, Rural and Northern Housing and First Nations	Dan Gaspé, Assembly of First Nations Housing and Homelessness Sector, Senior Policy Advisor Michael Sadler, BCFNHIC
4:30 p.m.	Closing Prayer	Knowledge Keeper Ma-Nee Chacaby
Meeting Adjourns		