

National First Nations Housing and Homelessness Forum

May 31 – June 1, 2023
Early Evening Welcome Reception, May 30



Forum national des Premières Nations sur le logement et l'itinérance

Du 31 mai au 1^{er} juin 2023
Réception de bienvenue en début de soirée, le 30 mai

BREAKFAST

7:30AM – 8:30AM
Room: Churchill Court

WiFi: Assembly Of First Nations
Password: AOFN2023

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WELCOME!

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Opening Ceremony

Opening Prayer by **Knowledge Keeper Elder Ma
Nee Chacby**, *AFN Elders Council*

Drum Group - **Red Spirit Singers**



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Welcome Address

AFN National Chief RoseAnne Archibald

**AFN Regional Chief Cindy Woodhouse, *Chiefs Committee
on Housing and Infrastructure Portfolio Holder***



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Opening Remarks

**Grace Martineau, *Director of Housing and Homelessness
Sector, Assembly of First Nation***



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Keynote Address

Grand Chief Jerry Daniels,
Southern Chiefs Organization Inc.

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NETWORKING BREAK

9:50AM – 10:05AM

Room: Mountbatten Ballroom

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AFN Updates

Dan Gaspé, *Senior Policy Analyst, Housing
and Homelessness, AFN*

Jordan Fischer, *Senior Policy Analyst,
Housing and Homelessness, AFN*

Matthew George, *Senior Policy
Analyst, Infrastructure, AFN*



ASSEMBLY OF
FIRST NATIONS

ASSEMBLÉE DES
PREMIÈRES NATIONS

FIRST NATIONS HOUSING

MAY 31, 2023



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

AFN HOUSING RESOLUTIONS GUIDE ADVOCACY

1. 57/2018 National First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy
2. 59/2022 Transformative Federal Investment Needed in First Nations Housing
3. 60/2022 First Nations Involvement in the Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy
4. 81/2019 Dene Nation Control of Housing in Northwest Territories
5. 16/2013 Transition of the First Nations Market Housing Fund to First Nations Control
6. 80/2019 Federal Consultation & Transparency in First Nations Housing Program & Funding Changes



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

PRINCIPLES GUIDING HOUSING DISCUSSIONS WITH CANADA

- Respect nation-to-nation, Treaty relationship, Sec. 35 inherent rights & UNDRIP
- Federal Government fiduciary obligations
- Each First Nation decides its own housing vision & system of control
- First Nations housing jurisdiction applies wherever citizens live
- All AFN-Canada housing processes to be distinctions-based
- All federal First Nations housing initiatives to be co-developed
- Federal housing programs to have First Nations-exclusive carve-out
- No surprises – openness & transparency, timely access to all federal information



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57/2018 National First Nations Housing & Related Infrastructure Strategy

2022-23 ACTIVITIES:

- Helped develop Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030 report.
- Pre-budget submission (PBS) for \$60 billion
- Late 2022: submitted updated estimate \$135.1 billion by 2030.
- March 2023: national summit, experts reviewed financing options to add to federal investments so First Nations have access to the full capital needed for new construction, renovations & lot servicing.
- March 2023: national workshop of experts input to report on action needed to implement skills & capacity elements of Strategy.



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National First Nations Housing & Related Infrastructure Strategy

- Advocate First Nations' access to federal investments & low-cost financing options totaling \$135.1 billion to 2030.
- Consider implementation of phased, multi-year funding by 2040 rather than to 2030.
- Address shortages of labour & materials,
- Co-develop new/revised housing programs re: \$2.4 billion from 2022 Federal Budget, largest federal investment in First Nations housing ever.



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National First Nations Housing & Related Infrastructure Strategy

- Additional research - transition to control of housing systems only if conditions right.
- Subject to Chiefs approval, establish in 2024 National First Nations Housing Policy and Research Centre.
- Press Canada to fulfill housing-related commitments in the UNDRIP Act Action Plan.
- Advocate for additional land on which to build.



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59/2022 Transformative Federal Investment Needed in First Nations Housing

- Resolution seeks federal government to commit 2023 budget
 - Invest the full \$135.1 billion to 2030.
 - 25 to 50-year predictable federal funding
 - Additional investment in community infrastructure, water, serviced lots, etc.
 - Funds to research additional housing costs & engagement
- \$135.1 B cost estimate came late in federal PBS process
- AFN-led, jointly developed cost estimate, twice,
 - 2021 First Nations Housing = \$60 billion to 2040
 - 2021 estimate + new factors = 2022 CTIG Report \$135.1B to 2030
- AFN 's 2022 Pre-Budget Submission \$44 billion immediate needs, including expected migration + \$16 billion future needs = \$60 billion.



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

59/2022 Transformative Federal Investment Needed in First Nations Housing

A. Federal Budget 2022

- Made housing top priority for Canadians
- Invested \$2.4b + self-governing \$565m + Yukon & NWT (part of \$90m) = approximately \$3 billion over 5 years
- Downpayment towards the total First Nations needs
- Factors in cost estimate increase
 - Increase in construction materials, labour, transportation, etc. caused by global COVID-19 pandemic
 - Unprecedented inflation in 2021 and 2022
 - Other global events
 - Added operations & maintenance, climate, accessibility
 - Shortened time frame (2040 to 2030)



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

59/2022 Transformative Federal Investment Needed in First Nations Housing

- Minister of Indigenous Services
 - Mandate to close the infrastructure gap by 2030
 - Spoke to Chiefs July 2022 AGA 'closing the infrastructure gap (including housing) by 2030 is hard target, not aspirational goal'
- ISC switched signals to First Nations after July 2022...
 - Onus on First Nations to show they can spend 2022 investment before new investments
 - 2022 CTIG By 2030 Report might not be jointly developed with ISC
- Next Steps
 - Advocate \$135.1 billion in 2024 Federal Budget
 - Explore & expand access to low-cost financing options
 - Advocate additional land



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

60-2022 First Nations Involvement in the Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy

2022-23 ACTIVITIES:

- Federal Budget 2022 \$300m (\$281.5m)
- Advocacy centered on # of essentials:
 - Engagement, co-development of use of URN funds & all URN processes distinctions-based
 - Distinct First Nations section of the URN strategy
 - Alignment with National First Nations Housing & Related Infrastructure Strategy
 - First Nations are 58% of Indig./urban population
- Fall letter to ISC ADM reacting to unilateral ISC creation of pan-Indigenous process to allocate urgent \$300m



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First Nations Involvement in the Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy

- Spring 2023
 - Federal Budget \$4 billion/7 years
 - ISC gives new pan-Indigenous organization, NICHI, responsibility to allocate \$281.5 m urgent funds
 - AFN/RC letter to Minister Hajdu express concern with unilateral pan-Indigenous process, re-offer First Nations distinct process & 58% of \$s to First Nations
- Feb. – March 2023 preliminary First Nations engagements' highlights are;
 - More engagements, esp. those who migrate, grassroots & those with lived experience
 - First Nations lead development of First Nations-exclusive URN Strategies at all levels



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First Nations Involvement in the Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy

- Each First Nation & region will develop their respective visions for on & off reserve housing
- Self-reliance & control are common elements
- Develop it like Treaties, nation to nation
- Access to housing no matter where citizens live
- Portability of rights and access to services
- Support to develop good relations & mutual trust
- First step, address the source of migration off-reserve



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First Nations Involvement in the Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy

- Portion of URN funds must go directly to F/Nations
- Address First Nations' & off-reserve housing groups' staff shortages
- Social housing funds currently directed to the GNWT should go directly to the Dene Nation
- Co-develop minimum standards for communicating availability of supports and outcomes of investments
- All regions, lack sufficient funds to meet ever growing housing/population needs
- Additional land on which to build essential
- **Next steps**: Draft resolution July 2023 AGA, continued advocacy & possibly research



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81-2019 Dene Nation Control of Housing in Northwest Territories

2022-23 ACTIVITIES:

- Provided Dene Nation funds to help it continue the momentum started the previous year to develop capacity to organize Dene Nation First Nation leadership around common housing goals.

NEXT STEPS

- Continue to press ISC, and other federal agencies as required, to provide sufficient resources directly to the Dene Nation for its coordination of housing activities



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

32/2023 Modify CMHC Tender Security Bond Requirements

- Resolution calls for AFN to work jointly with CMHC to...
 - Revise its funding & procurement policy
 - Reduce requirement for security bonds for First Nations construction companies eligible to bid for its construction tenders
- Challenge/barrier...
 - Many First Nations construction companies are ineligible to bid for CMHC construction tenders to First Nation Governments
 - Cannot meet minimum condition, millions of \$s in security bonds.
- First Nations construction companies are qualified, have years of experience managing & operating building projects.
- CMHC policy is an example of systemic racism and discrimination
- Mandate of Minister responsible for CMHC requires him to collaborate with First Nations in the improvement services.
- Next steps: Resolve in meeting(s) with CMHC with AFN regions



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16/2013 Transition of the First Nations Market Housing Fund to First Nations Control

2022-23 ACTIVITIES:

- Started regular meetings with new acting FNMHF CEO, which have developed a positive working relationship that acknowledges many shared goals.

NEXT STEPS

- Convene regular meetings with the FNMHF senior management and board members to explore joint or complementary action & common ground.



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80/2019 Federal Consultation & Transparency in First Nations Housing Program & Funding Changes

2022-23 ACTIVITIES & NEXT STEPS:

- Advocate AFN expectations of more, timely and shared information from ISC & CMHC.
- Press for access to secret Cabinet documents & processes
- Advocate joint development at their outset of programs used to flow new & existing funds to First Nation
- Joint activity pending on general agreement to co-develop a standardized departmental reporting template.



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Minister Speech

**The Honourable Patty Hajdu, MP, Minister of Indigenous Services
and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development
Agency for Northern Ontario**

NEED TO TALK?

Support is at
your fingertips



Call the
Hope for Wellness Help Line

1-855-242-3310

Online chat at
hopeforwellness.ca

VOUS RESSENTEZ LE BESOIN DE PARLER À QUELQU'UN?

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de votre main



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**NETWORKING & TRADESHOW
11:35AM – 12:00PM
Room: Mountbatten Ballroom**

**LUNCH
12:00PM – 1:00PM
Room: Churchill Court**



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Plenary Presentation

Jessica Gordon, *Director, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)*

Krista Taylor, *Senior Manager Housing Policy, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)*

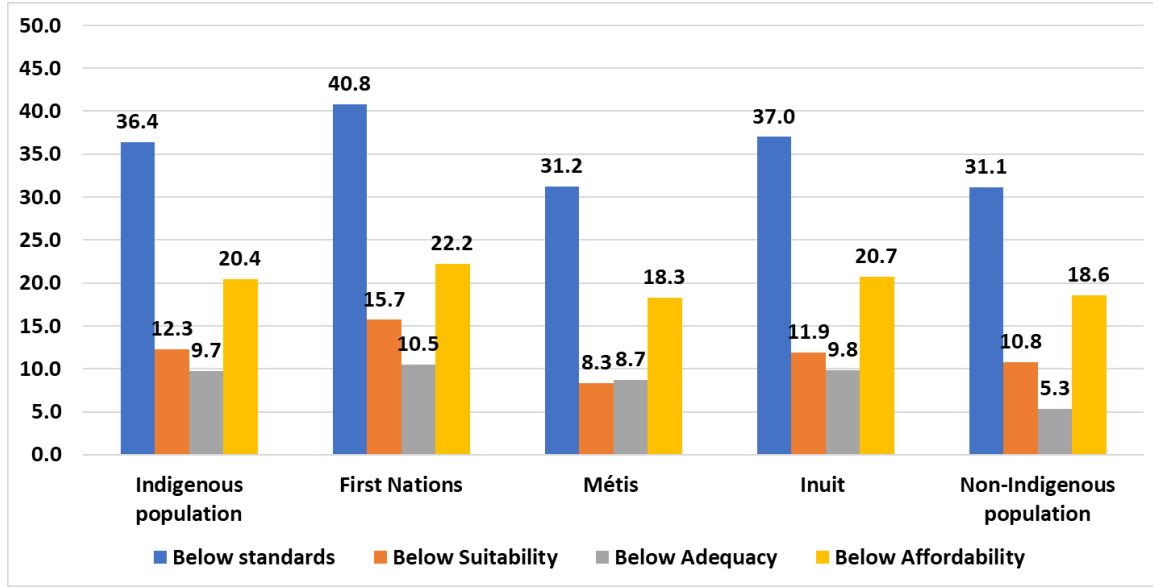
Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy

May 31st, 2023

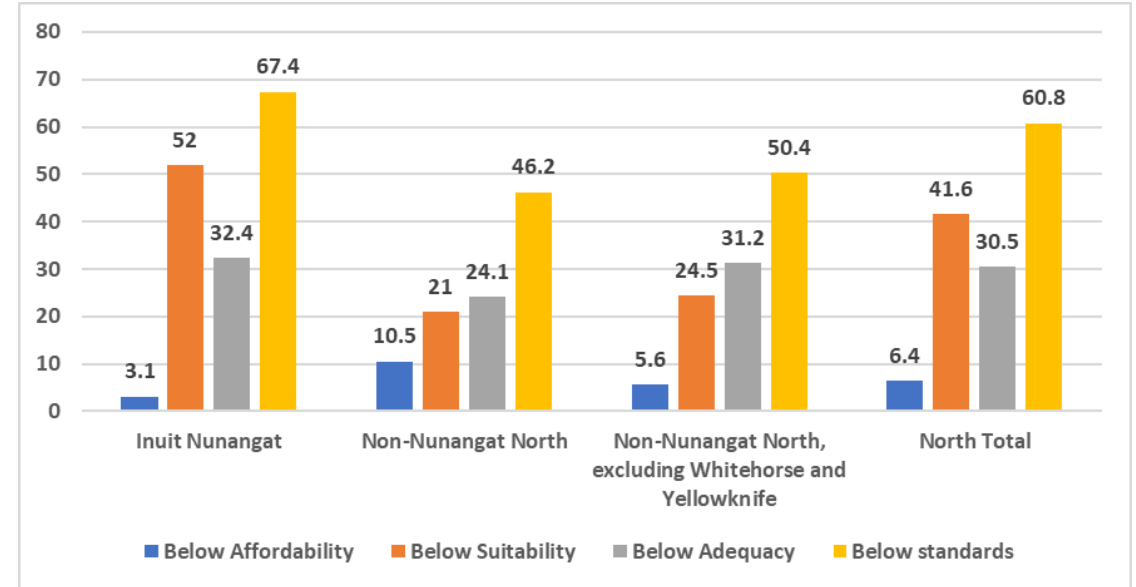
The Gap

- Indigenous households represent 5% of all households in Canada, but account for 7% of all households in housing need.
- The number of Indigenous households in core need in 2020 was estimated to be 124,000 households, or 18% of all Indigenous households in Canada. (PBO Report, 2021)
- **Significant housing gaps exist for Indigenous people living in urban, rural and northern areas.**
 - 57% of Indigenous households live in a census metropolitan area (i.e., large urban centre).
 - The prevalence of Indigenous households in housing need is greatest in Winnipeg (9,000 households), followed by Vancouver (8,000 households).
 - Indigenous households living in the North experience higher rates of core housing need for Yukon (18.7%), Northwest Territories (18.3%), Nunavut (40.0%) compared to all households in Canada at 10.1% (Census data 2021).
 - 47% of Indigenous individuals living in subsidized housing continue to be in housing need.
 - Although Indigenous Peoples represent 4.9% of the total population, they account for 30.9% of shelter users (Census data 2021)
 - Additionally, 7,000 individuals (0.5% of the Indigenous population) are considered homeless at a given point in time and 37,500 have experienced homelessness at some point over the course of a given year. (PBO Report, 2021)

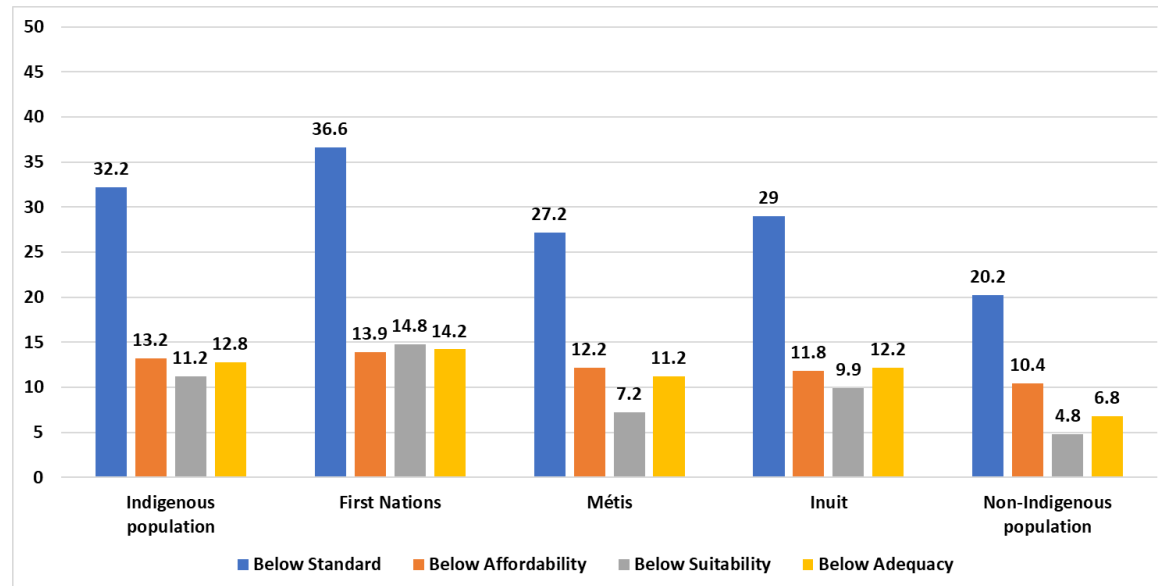
Indigenous Populations Living in Urban Centres and Below Housing Standards



Percentage of Northern Indigenous Populations below housing standards, 2021



Indigenous Peoples below living standards living in CAs & Non-CMA/CAs, 2021



Minister's Mandate

- Improving the quality, supply and affordability of housing for Indigenous Peoples living in urban, rural and northern areas is a priority for the Government of Canada and an important commitment on the path toward reconciliation. It also supports the Government's work with Indigenous Peoples toward the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- **The Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion's mandate commits to work with Indigenous partners to co-develop an Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy, a stand-alone companion to the National Housing Strategy, supported by dedicated investments.**
- Currently federal funding for Indigenous housing flows through three distinct housing strategies – the First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy; the Inuit Nunangat Housing Strategy; and the Métis Nation Housing Sub Accord, each co-developed with National Indigenous Organizations.
- The Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy is intended to complement the three existing distinctions-based housing strategies by addressing the unique needs of Indigenous Peoples living in urban, rural and northern areas.

Budget Commitment

- Budget 2022 committed \$300 million over five years, starting in 2022-23 to co-develop and launch an Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy with Indigenous partners to address the housing needs of Indigenous Peoples living in urban, rural and northern areas.
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has been supporting Indigenous led engagements to inform the Strategy since last fall.
- Indigenous Services Canada is leading on the delivery of immediate investments, while CMHC focuses on advancing the Minister's mandate letter commitment to co-develop and implement the longer term Urban, Rural and Northern (U.R.N.) Indigenous Housing Strategy.
- Budget 2023 proposes to commit an additional \$4 billion, over seven years, starting in 2024-25, to implement a co-developed Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy.

Engagement Overview

- The U.R.N. Indigenous housing landscape is complex, with many diverse interests and partners across Canada. CMHC advanced a multi-faceted engagement approach that is inclusive and respectful of Indigenous partners' plans and approaches.
- CMHC supported **Indigenous-led engagements** to bring forward opinions and input from Indigenous organizations, governments, housing and service providers, to inform **the co-development of the Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy**.
- Over 30 in-person and virtual engagement sessions were held from January - March 2023, in addition to 950 responses to a survey.

Engagement and Co-Development: Progress to date

Call for Ideas	Engaging Provinces and Territories	NIO Led Engagement & engagement with MTSGIG	Coalition Led Engagement	Northern Engagements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online survey / call for written submissions launched February 14 and closed March 31st. • Over 950 submissions were received. • An Indigenous firm provided capacity support. • A Summary Report of survey responses/ submissions will be developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular and ongoing engagement with PTs through the FPT Forum on Housing & Working Group. • Initial round of bilateral discussions with PTs were held. Further discussions will be held. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFN sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.C.-6 virtual • APCFNC- 1 • SK-1 • QC/LAB- 1 • DENE NWT - 1 • ITK- 15 virtual • MNC- 1 day in-person • MMF- 1 virtual • CAP- 1 day in-person • NWAC- 4 virtual /survey • LFMO- 1 in person, several virtual • MT Holders, and Self-governing Indigenous Gov.- 2 info sessions and bilateral calls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMHC supported a gathering of Indigenous housing and service providers Nov 25th leading to a protocol. • A coalition of Indigenous housing and service providers (now incorporated as the National Indigenous Housing Collaborative or NICHl) supported by CMHC, convened a gathering on April 17 on the margins of the CHRA Annual General Meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMHC convened Northern partners for an engagement in Whitehorse March 28. • Dene Nation Chief's engagement held in Yellowknife March 23. • Gwich'in Tribal Council in-person sessions held in Yellowknife March 23 and Whitehorse March 28 with members living out of community.

What We Heard – Indigenous Led Engagements

We heard housing needs across the housing continuum from shelters to home ownership; however, there was a strong focus on shelters, transitional, supportive and affordable housing needs.

	Housing Continuum	Vulnerable Populations	Perpetuation of Colonialism
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High rental costs- deep affordability challenges• Housing supply needed• Housing in poor conditions• Crowded housing• Limited access and long wait lists• Rising inflation/ Cost of living• Access to homeownership out of reach• Limited and high-cost land• Construction costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• From shelters to homeownership – no straight path – movement in and out of housing tenures• Holistic approaches needed• Emergency housing- shelters, transitional, housing with supports and services• Deeper affordability support• Rent to own & home ownership/ down payment assistance	<p>Culturally appropriate housing for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unhoused• Women & children fleeing violence• Youth aging out of care• Students• Formerly incarcerated• Large families• Seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Racism and discrimination• NIMBYism• A safe environment to live in that is secure and permanent (free from re-victimization and racism)• Advocate for landlord tenant issues/rights

What We Heard – Indigenous Led Engagements

Throughout engagements the need for data to identify need and track progress was a focus.

Hub/Navigator

- Navigator/safe point of contact to connect people to housing and services
- E-scan of services available
- Single portal of information on services
- Connection to home community
- Education and training for people living away

Housing in Community

- Lack of housing
- Poor housing conditions
- Crowding in community cause of members leaving, along with seeking jobs, education medical reasons
- Desire for repatriation a key priority for many First Nations
- Infrastructure planning

Capacity Building

- Life skills, financial literacy,
- Trades training/employment in construction sector
- home maintenance, rent applications, credit scores
- Cultural awareness for landlords and service providers

Partnerships

- Support by all levels of Government/alignment of programs
- Directly w/CMHC
- Private sector – banks, developers, universities, housing providers
- Health and social services
- Charities, foundations

What We Heard – Indigenous Led Engagements

Governance

- ITK, AFN, MNC and MMF indicated a need for distinctions-based approach
- Many housing and service providers indicated a need for Indigenous led approach to address gaps in funding
- Modern Treaty and Self-Governing Indigenous Governments indicate the need to respect treaty rights and government-to-government relationships; and expressed intent to serving members living away

Funding / Allocation

- Various approaches proposed:
- Long-term funding
 - Flexible and equitable
 - Direct to communities
 - Funding for all members incl. off lands
 - Based on proportional allocation model and/or housing need
 - Local and regional approaches
 - Streamlined funding/remove barriers/red tape/longer timelines
 - Operations and maintenance funding for project viability
 - Rent geared to income for low-income
 - Northern approach/carve-out
 - NICHI desire to deliver nationally

Co-Development

- A holistic approach that is inclusive of all generations, all aspects of life and the entire housing spectrum.
- Indigenous led, having respect for individual First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities and their level of readiness.
- Should build on the input received, include validation and have input from subject experts.
- More time needed to co-develop.
- Co-development means different things to each partners; no single approach or definition.
- A regional or sub-regional approach and level the playing field in terms of access to funding for Indigenous housing.

Next Steps

- Continue **compiling and analyzing feedback** received from Indigenous-led engagements and survey/submissions.
- Produce an **official What We Heard** report to be released on CMHC's website.
- Continue to co-develop **the Strategy and Implementation Plans** with Indigenous Partners
- Continue to collaborate with **federal partners** at ISC, CIRNAC, and INFC
- Continue dialogue with **Provinces and Territories to align efforts and leverage funding**
- Provide policy options/ **advice to government**

Discussion Questions

- Do the themes in this summary resonate with you?
- Are there priorities that could be advanced in the short to mid- term? (e.g., housing navigators, holistic hubs with housing and services; housing for youth aging out or care, seniors, students, women/children fleeing violence).
- What is your view as it relates to a co-development process? What does it look like and what should it look like overall?
- Are there opportunities to leverage any existing forums/tables to advance our work?

QUESTIONS?



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Concurrent Workshop Sessions 1:45PM – 3:15PM

Rossetti Room	Scott Room	Carlyle Room	Wren Room
Closing the Infrastructure Gap	Nishnawbe Aski Nation Housing Strategy Update	Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society Presentation	What Can Your Province Do? Lessons Learned from BC Housing's Work with Indigenous Communities
<i>Craig Baker, Senior Policy Analyst, Assembly of First Nations</i> <i>Matthew George, Senior Policy Analyst, Assembly of First Nations</i>	<i>Michael McKay, Director of Housing and Infrastructure, Nishnawbe Aski Nation</i> <i>Dr. Shelagh McCartney, Director, Together Design Lab Toronto Metropolitan University</i>	<i>Fran Hunt-Jinnouchi, Executive Director, Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society</i>	<i>Rod Hill, Director, Indigenous Relations, BC Housing</i>

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Concurrent Workshop Sessions 3:30PM – 5:00PM

Rossetti Room	Scott Room	Carlyle Room	Wren Room
First Nations Housing Performance Measurement Framework Project	Homeless Encampments and Upholding the Human Right to Housing, Including the Indigenous Right to Housing	Understanding Indigenous Harm Reduction in the context of homelessness services	UNDA Engagement Session
Mostafa Askari, <i>First Nations Housing Performance Measurement Framework Project</i> Azfar Ali Khan, <i>Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy (IFSD)</i>	Jordan Fischer, <i>Senior Policy Analyst, Housing and Homelessness, AFN</i> Marie-Josée Houle, <i>Federal Housing Advocate</i> Sophia Iliopoulos, <i>Policy Analyst, BCAFN</i>	Andrea Jibb, <i>Director of Housing and Healing Services, Atlohsa Family Healing Services</i> Terri King, <i>Manager of Housing and Community Services, Atlohsa Family Healing Services</i>	Caleb Behn, <i>Director of Rights, Assembly of First Nations</i>

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THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

See you tomorrow at 7:30AM for breakfast!