

**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*

**What Can Your Province Do?
Lessons Learned from BC Housing's Work with
Indigenous Communities**

**Rod Hill, BC Housing's
Acting Director of Indigenous Relations**

What Can Your Province Do?

Lessons Learned from BC Housing's Work with
Indigenous Communities

May 31, 2023

Rod Hill, Director, Indigenous Relations (acting)


Overview

- About BC Housing
- BC Housing Programs
- BC Housing Initiatives
- Reconciliation

About BC Housing


Maintaining and Rehabilitating Existing Social Housing

857




Housing partners
across the province

66,428




Units of social housing
across the province that
BC Housing has ongoing
capital asset
responsibilities for

5,508



Units of subsidized
housing directly owned,
operated, managed and
maintained by BC
Housing

62,258



Units are operated
and/or owned by non-
profit housing provider

BC Housing Programs

Building BC

Community Housing Fund

Next Call – Anticipated Summer 2023



BC HOUSING



BC HOUSING
Indigenous Initiatives

Indigenous Housing Fund

Next Call - Anticipated Fall 2023



BC HOUSING



BC HOUSING
Indigenous Initiatives

Other Programs

Supportive Housing Fund
Women's Transition Housing
Rapid Response to Homelessness



BC HOUSING



BC HOUSING
Indigenous Initiatives

Background photo from Times Colonist

BC Housing Initiatives

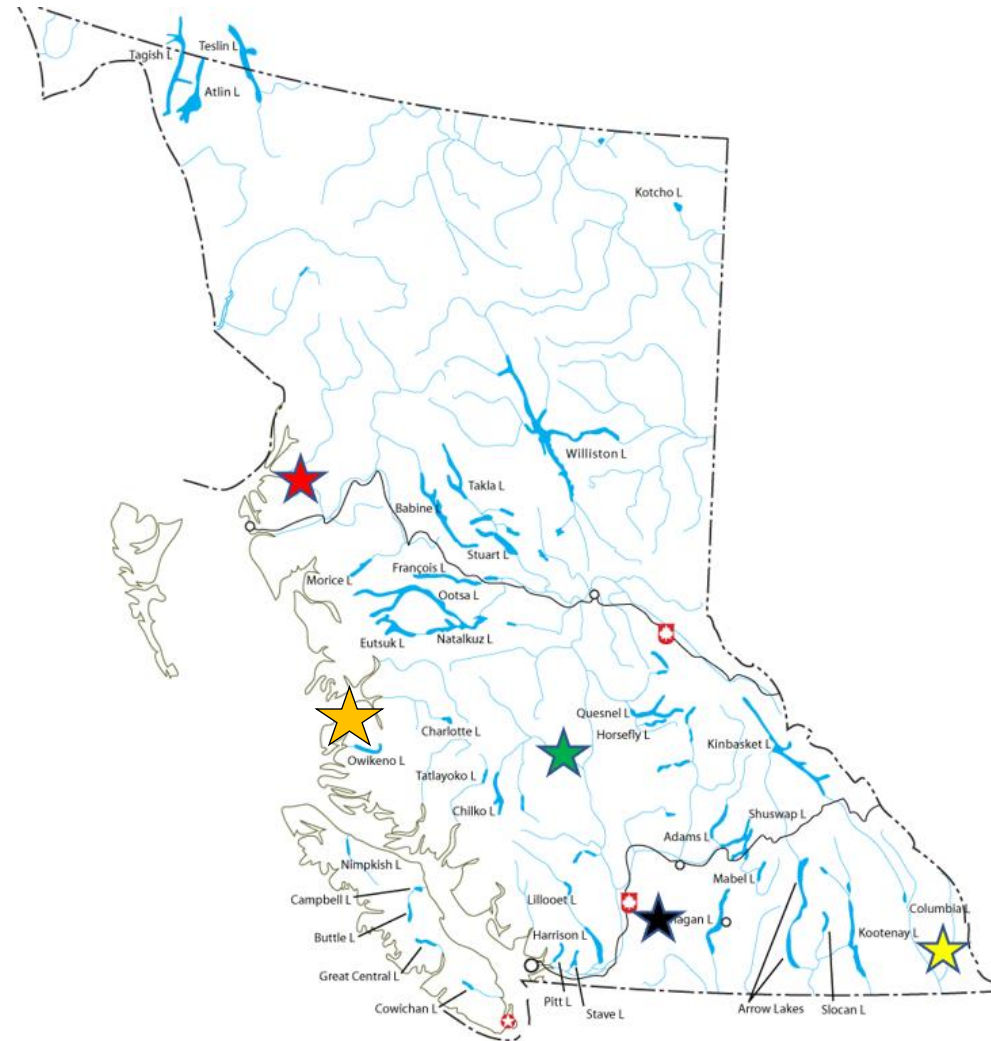
Asset Management MOUs

Asset Management MOUs



MOU Map


- ★ Ktunaxa and Shuswap
- ★ Nicola Nations
- ★ Nisga'a Nation
- ★ Tsilhqot'in National Government
- ★ WKNXTC



Areas of Focus

- Asset Condition Assessments
- Data Management
- Capital Planning
- Maintenance Management
- Energy Management
- Procurement
- Construction Standards
- Document Management
- Construction Project Management
- Commissioning

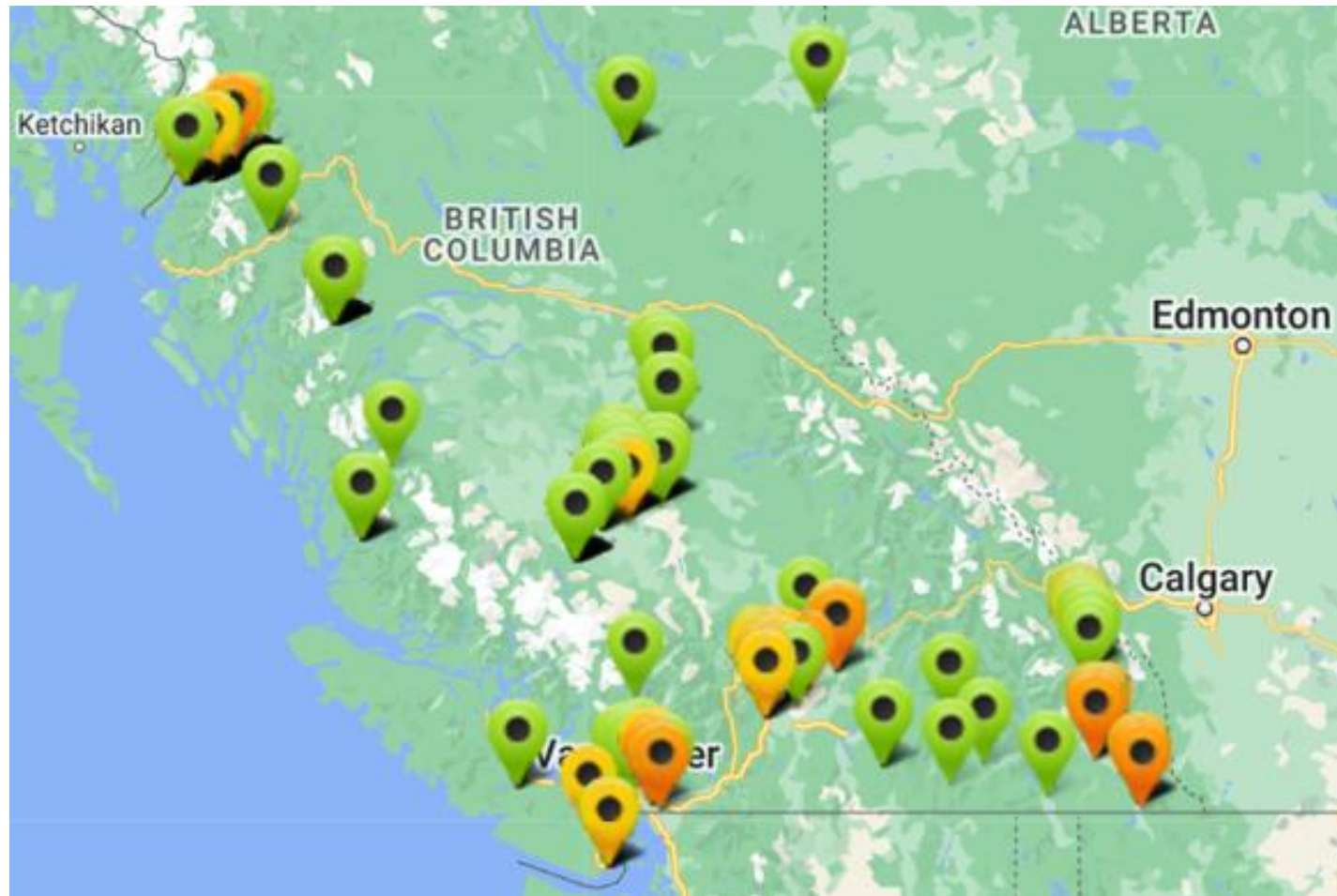
Facility Condition Index – A Key Metric

$$\text{FCI} = \frac{\begin{array}{l} \text{\$ Replace plumbing} + \text{\$ Replace windows} + \text{\$ Replace roof shingles} + \text{\$ Painting} + \text{\$ Replace siding} + \text{Etc....} \end{array}}{\begin{array}{c} \text{\$ Whole building Current} \\ \text{Replacement Value} \end{array}}$$


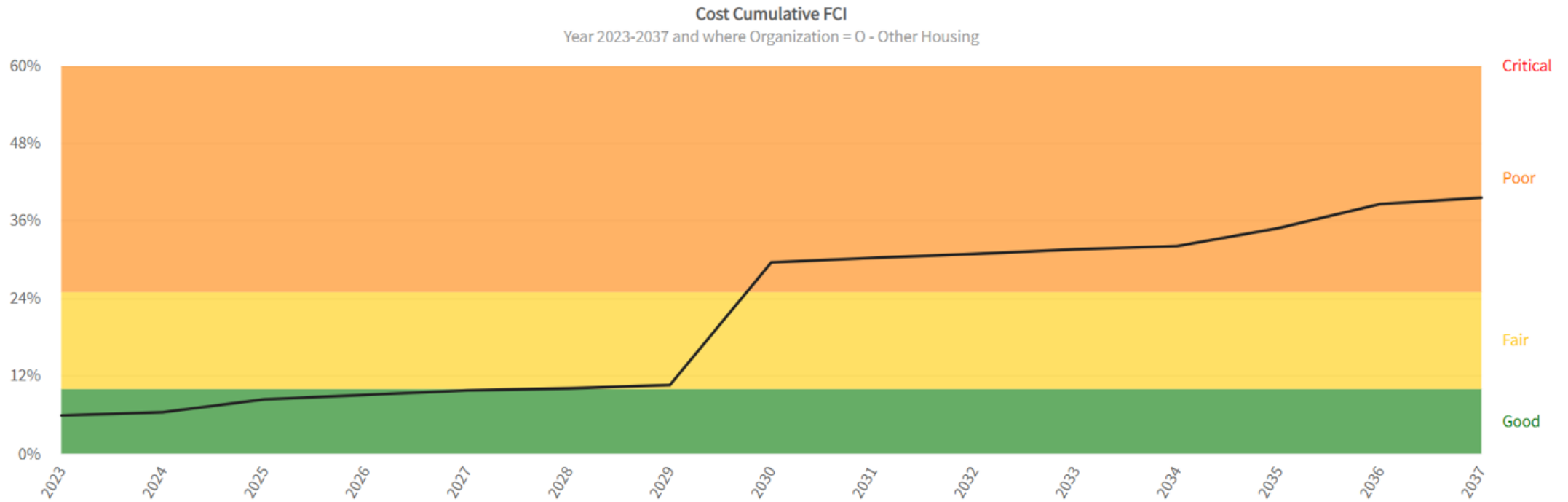
Facility Condition Index Scoring



FCL in Map View



FCI Over Time

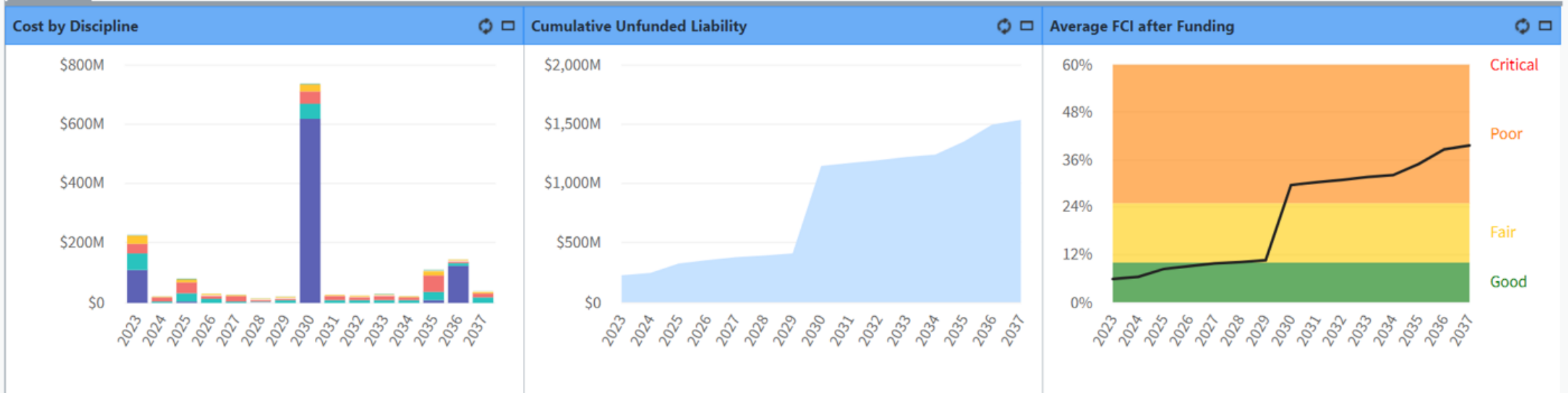


FCI Supports Capital Planning

Asset Planning / Home Page

Add Favorite | Print | Help

Charts Asset Planner Overview



Reconciliation

Moving Forward Together

BC Housing's Reconciliation Strategy



Moving Forward Together

The BC Housing Reconciliation Strategy was initiated in June 2019 at the direction of the Board of Commissioners. We are implementing, and working towards our ongoing commitments to Indigenous people, reconciliation and decolonization.



Moving Forward Together

2022/23-2023/24

GOALS

- Deep Indigenous partnerships that advance Truth and Reconciliation and the implementation of DRIPA
- Housing and services are equitable, people-centred, and accessible to all

STREAM 2: Understanding Reconciliation

- Initiate and implement a reconciliation learning and un-learning framework for employees to support learning and development of reconciliation competencies
- Collaborate with sector partners, support reconciliation learning and unlearning initiatives for sector capacity building
- Advance BC Housing Research Centre's alignment with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, and First Nation Principles of OCAP (ownership, control, access, and possession)

STREAM 1: Building Our Reconciliation Scaffolding

- Establish cross-functional reconciliation working groups to support strategy implementation
- Implement an Indigenous relationship management system for coordination and clarity
- Create a reconciliation strategy evaluation framework with a reporting mechanism to enhance transparency and accountability
- Launch an Indigenous Employee Resource Group to support a culture of safety and inclusion
- Begin a community of practice to create space for continuous knowledge dissemination
- Establish mechanisms for greater coordination between the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) and BC Housing

STREAM 4: Building and Sustaining Relationships

- Improve reconciliation and equity strategies to support meaningful participation
- Revamp our Indigenous engagement and consultation resources for employees to be in alignment with DRIPA and the principles of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)
- Collaborate with the First Nations Housing Infrastructure Council (FNHIC), AHMA and First Nation partners to support Indigenous-led housing solutions
- Determine mechanisms for sustained relationship building to enable consistent and proactive insight gathering and collaboration with Indigenous communities

Our Path

BC Housing commits to advancing a path forward that ensures historical, and present-day harms are acknowledged and actively addressed.

STREAM 3: Transforming Our Organization and Sector

- Create and implement an Honoraria Policy to support respectful engagement, consultation, and participation of Indigenous knowledge holders, Elders, and leaders
- Expand the procurement program to increase economic opportunities for Indigenous businesses
- Support community-led Indigenous coordinated access processes and look for Provincial alignment opportunities
- Embed equity, cultural safety, and trauma-informed approaches into guidelines and tools, including the National Occupancy Standards (NOS) and the Vulnerability Assessment Tool (VAT)
- Implement recommendations from operational audits on cultural safety and anti-racism in collaboration with Indigenous partners
- Review and enhance funding mechanisms and programs based on input from previous recipients and unsuccessful Indigenous applicants
- Develop BC Housing Indigenous Design Guidelines to integrate cultural considerations into building design

Our Principles

Indigenous-led
Community-driven
Collaborative
Mutual respect
Reciprocity
Self awareness and self reflection
Effective communication
Flexibility
Builds capacity
Upholds Indigenous self-determination

STREAM 5: Maintaining and Multiplying Transformation

- Continue developing partnerships and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) to support Indigenous asset management capacity
- Assess the resource needs of the Indigenous Asset Management program
- Coordinate with provincial and federal departments responsible for issues related to housing, reconciliation and equity to identify more opportunities for alignment





Thank you



indigenousrelations1@bchousing.org

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NETWORKING AND TRADESHOW BREAK

3:15PM – 3:30PM

Room: Mountbatten Ballroom

WiFi: Assembly Of First Nations
Password: AOFN2023

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UNDA Engagement Session

Caleb Behn
Director of Rights, Assembly of First Nations

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THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

See you tomorrow at 7:30AM for breakfast!

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Niginan Housing Ventures – Decolonizing Housing with an Indigenous Led Housing Agency

Keri Cardinal,
Chief Executive Officer, NiGiNan Housing Ventures

Dyan Harke
Director of Health Services, Niginan Housing Ventures





NiGiNan HOUSING VENTURES

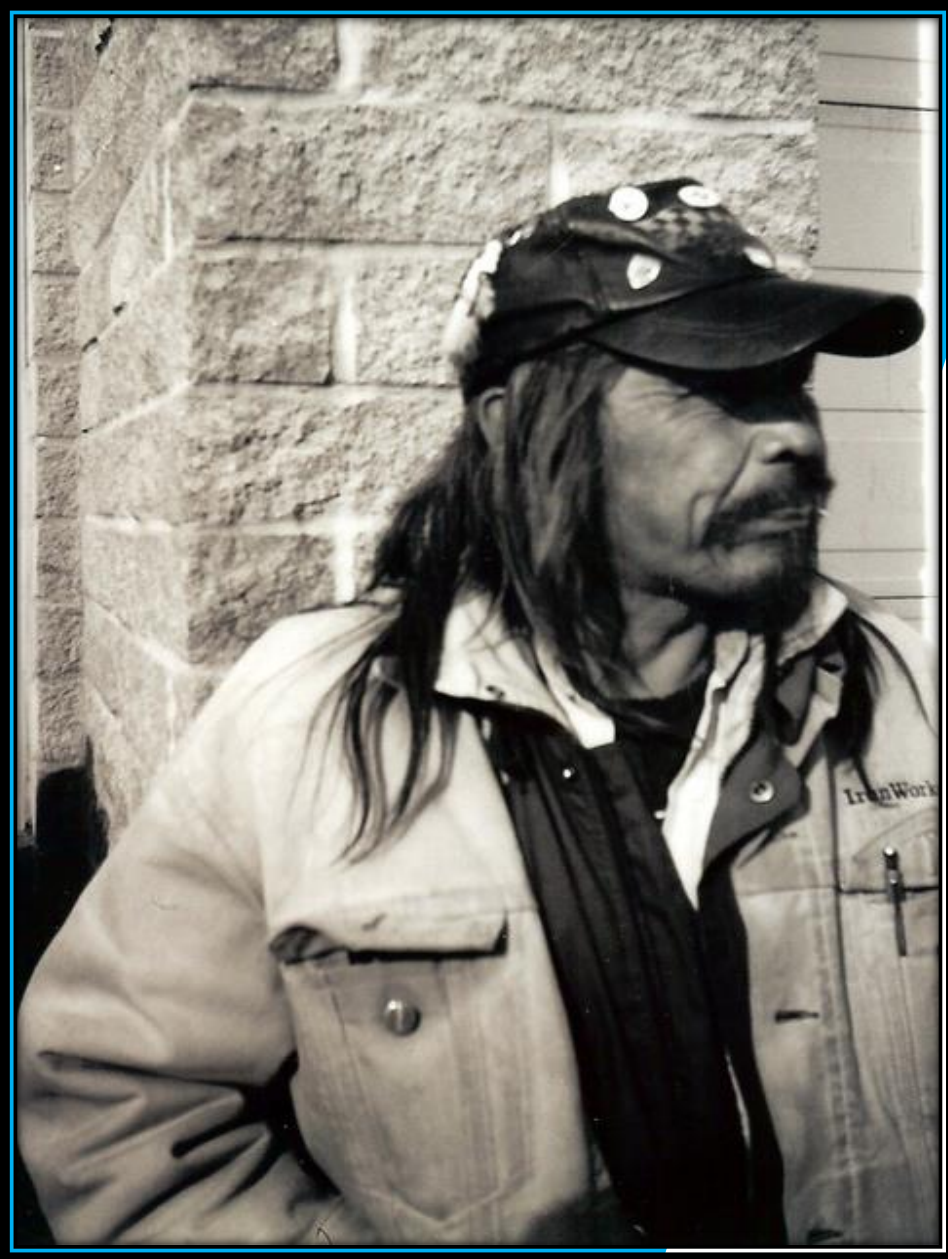
DECOLONIZING HOUSING



HOUSING THE HARDEST TO HOUSE

NiGiNan Housing Ventures embraces an Indigenous worldview to redefine the concept of housing. Our approach is rooted in a holistic practice that integrates ceremony, cultural support, and engaging community programming into our harm reduction-oriented model.





AMBROSE DANIELS

THE LEGACY

Ambrose Daniels lived the last part of his life in Edmonton, homeless and unable to access shelter. One December, at the age of fifty, Ambrose succumbed to complications of pneumonia. His untimely and tragic death speaks to Edmonton's critical shortage of suitable housing.

VISION

THE VISION

To create communities where individuals and families, predominantly of Indigenous ancestry, can access resources in a manner that honors and respects Indigenous history and culture. Our goal is to empower them in securing housing that provides a genuine sense of acceptance and belonging.

THE MISSION

To foster culturally sensitive environments that offer opportunities for individuals and families of Indigenous ancestry to access healthy, safe, and affordable homes.





HOUSING GOVERNED BY NATURAL LAW

←.....→
NiGiNan employs a neyhiwak ᑎᑦᑭᑎᑦᑭᑦ way to housing which is rooted in the cyclical relationship between Indigenous Culture and Ceremony, holism, a people-first approach, relationships, land, community care, and lived experience.

THE NATURAL LAWS

- Kindness
- Honesty
- Sharing
- Strength

INDIGENOUS WORLD VIEW



RELATIONSHIP

We as Indigenous Peoples are in relationship with the land and all our relatives, there is an interconnectedness to all of creation. Everything has spirit. It is having power with, not over.

HARMONY

This defines our relationships with respect, reciprocity, and responsibility as humans reaching our full potential and thus creating a harmonious, just society. The survival of each life form is dependent on the survival of others.



Indigenous Harm Reduction

DECOLONIZED

Create spaces and infrastructure that give more power and control to the person. Be informed of the intergenerational trauma faced by Indigenous Peoples. Accept, acknowledge, affirm, and accommodate residents of all Indigenous identities.

INDIGENIZED

Focuses on strength over weakness and wellness over illness. Grounded in oral history and traditional practice taught by Elders. Incites reconnection to the land, family, community, self, and spirituality. Programs designed, developed, and led by Indigenous leaders.

HOLISTIC

The understanding is that the Indigenous experience is rooted in systemic racism in the form of unjust access to health and social services, limited or no funding for Indigenous support services, and homelessness and poverty.

1

2

3

4

5

6

What Makes

NiGiNan's
Approach
Different?

1

2

3

4

5



Screening

Residents are screened based on having the highest degree of needs. Every resident were experiencing homeless upon admission.

What Makes
NiGiNan's
Approach
Different?

6



Managed Alcohol, Cannabis & Tobacco Program

Alcohol, cannabis, and tobacco are checked at the front desk and administered to residents by staff.

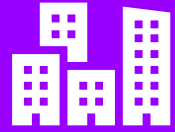
What Makes
NiGiNan's
Approach
Different?



Indigenous Harm Reduction Philosophy

Minimizing harm by meeting residents where they are without judgment, following evidence-based research to reconnect them to family, culture, and healing.

What Makes
NiGiNan's
Approach
Different?



1

Self-Contained Units

2

53 self-contained apartment units will be permanent homes for up to 90 residents.

3

4

5

6

What Makes
NiGiNan's
Approach
Different?



1

Indigenous Worldview

Built into the physical, social, and healing environment. Natural law is based on kindness, honesty, sharing, and strength.

2

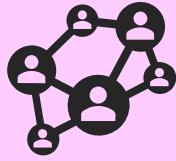
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What Makes
NiGiNan's
Approach
Different?



Cultural Supports

Elder teachings & on the land training, ceremonies, stories & songs, Traditional medicines, understanding rites of passage; support provided in Cree, connection to identity.

1

2

3

4

5

6

What Makes
NiGiNan's
Approach
Different?

Why Our Approach is Needed

Limited Options

Few supportive housing options are trauma-informed, follow harm reduction principles and an Indigenous context.

NiGiNan provides culture, healing, and connection through its supportive housing developments.

Homelessness Prevalence

Over 2,800 Edmontonians are currently unhoused and do not have their basic needs met.

A Housing First approach helps to meet the basic needs of unhoused people and has a higher long-term success rate.

Inconsistent Care

Inconsistent medical and mental health resources, as well as a lack of support and resources, makes healing difficult.

Supportive housing creates a more consistent environment for residents to heal.

Connection to Resources

Many unhoused people cannot access resources and support to improve their situation.

Harm reduction and supportive living create a safer, more stable home for residents to access necessary services.

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NiGiNan's Supportive Housing Success Statistics



↓ 61%

emergency room
visits per resident per
year



↓ 40 to 14

hospital inpatient days
per person per year



\$480,000

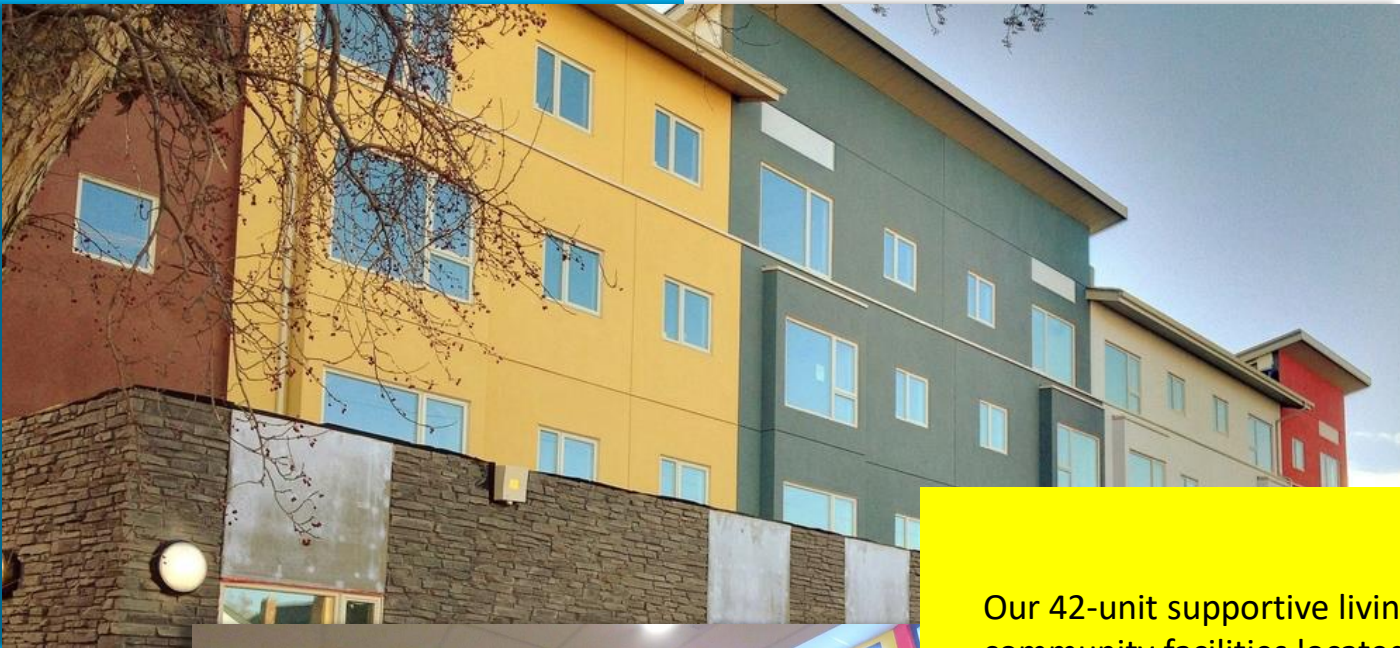
overall annual
savings for police
and justice systems

NIGINAN HOUSING VENTURES

INDIGENOUS-LED HOUSING SOLUTIONS



**Watch
the
Vignette**



Ambrose Place



Our 42-unit supportive living home offers residents safety, dignity, and stability. The community facilities located on the first floor are available for use by all residents.

Daily smudge and circles with the resident Elder.

Ongoing ceremonies such as pipe ceremonies and healing circles.

Partnerships with Alberta Health Service, PDD, and Homeward Trust for programming.

AHS embedded staff.

Managed Alcohol and Managed Cannabis Program.

Pimatisiwin (Old Sands Hotel)



Temporary bridge housing began on May 13, 2021. Conversion to offer supportive housing solutions to the Elmwood Park community began in 2022 and construction is to be completed in the summer of 2023.

Pimatisiwin Tower has 54 permanent supportive suites. The old banquet room is being converted into 6 accessible suites and 15 intake beds.

The old lobby and restaurant are being converted into a ceremony room and dining area with a security desk.

The old tavern has 34 bridge-housing cubicles which will likely continue to end of 2023. The housing level needed for bridge housing is normally 4 or higher.



Omamoo Wango Gamik

The 42-unit, affordable housing project in Belvedere is a partnership between NiGiNan Housing Ventures and the Right At Home Housing Society.

Belvedere tenants have access to myriad services including resident Indigenous Elders, 24/7 housing support, youth programming, and a mobile health care team.

Created to prevent the apprehension of children from Children and Family Services by creating a supportive Indigenous community. Residents include mooshums, kookums, aunties, uncles, and youth.

15 babies born since Omamoo opened in 2020.

Grant McEwan University has partnered with Niginan to conduct research on the program.

Housing need level 1 – 2.

McArthur Place



Partnership with AHS and Homeward Trust.

50 suites for permanent supportive housing. 1 bedroom or bachelor suites available. 10 are accessible units.

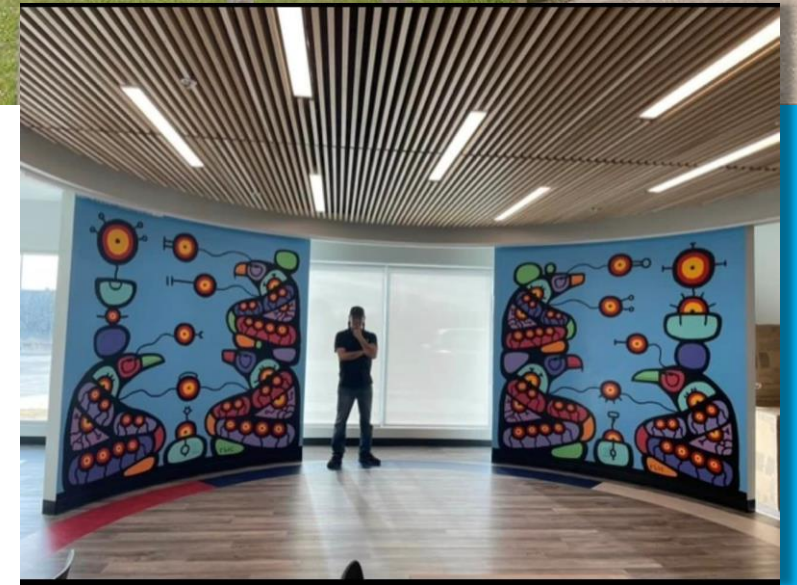
Access to cultural supports and ceremonies.

24/7 health care services with coordinated pharmacy services.

24/7 housing services with managed alcohol and managed cannabis.

Opened in April 2023 and admitting new residents daily.

Housing need level 3 – 4.

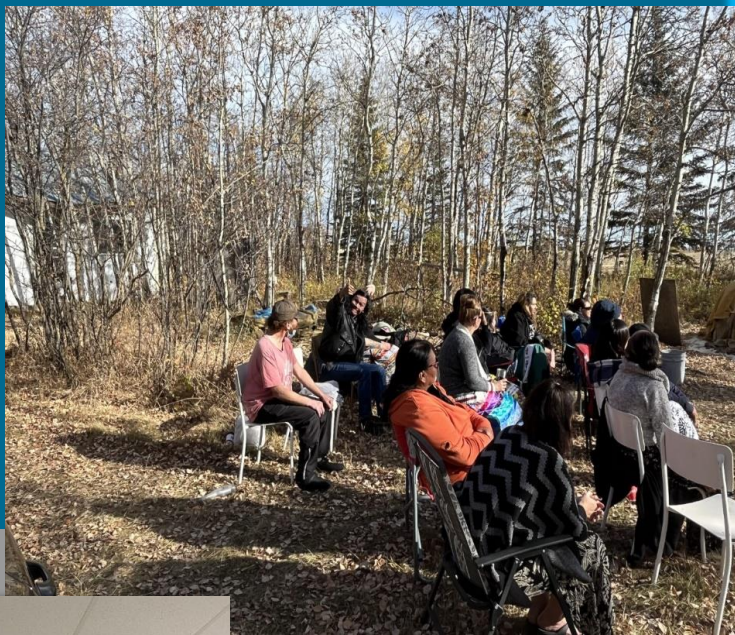


Feeling Helpless to Happy, Brian's Story



[Watch Here](#)

Persons With Developmental Disabilities



Residences include Kailek, Rene's A and B, Patty's, and Omamoo Wango Gamik.

A PDD client has an IQ below 70 and needs supportive assistance to reside in the community. We provide 24/7 staffing and guidance for our PDD residents.

Our PDD residents are Indigenous, and have housing issues and/or complex needs.

Niginan provides a safe and loving environment and believes we all have the right to live our lives the way we want.

At the core of our PDD program is building relationships with staff and clients to create a family environment.

Since all our programs are based on the four natural laws of strength, honesty, kindness, and sharing we include traditional teachings such as smudging, ceremony, and traditional teaching.

PDD PAINT NIGHT



Regular ongoing training and programming is an essential part of the PDD Program as we believe residents need to showcase their abilities.

Though they may have some barriers along their personal journeys, our program works toward developing or improving skills & abilities so that the individual can make more independent decisions affecting their lives and live as independently as possible.

Community building starts straight from home and branches outwards into the community!

Team of HCAs and LPN with embedded AHS staff.

Coordinated Pharmacy Services for all residents.

Incorporate traditional knowledge – using a mixture of traditional medicine and Western medicine to treat residents.

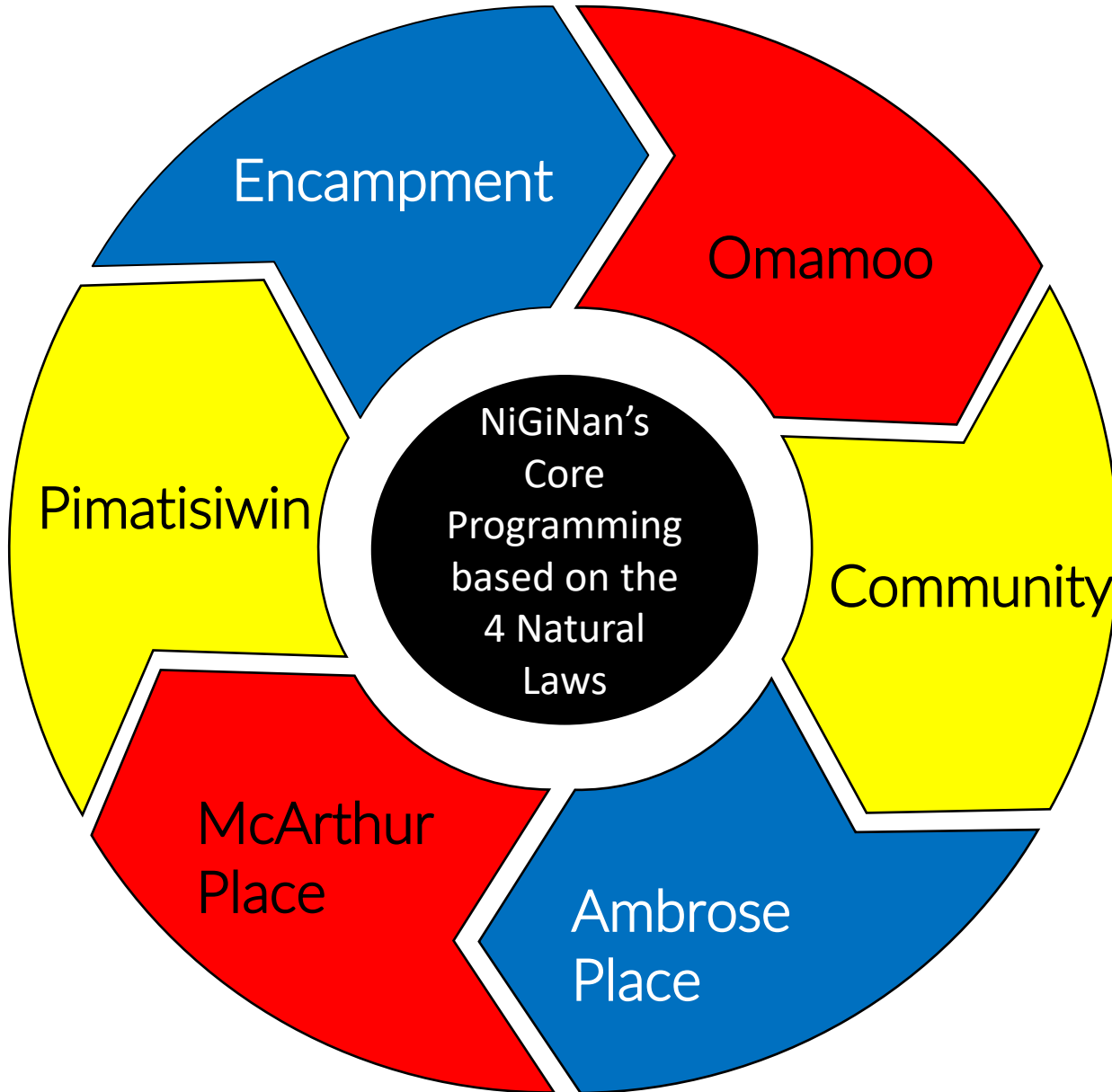
All residents were successfully vaccinated during the pandemic.

Provide End of Life Palliative Care when requested.



Health Care

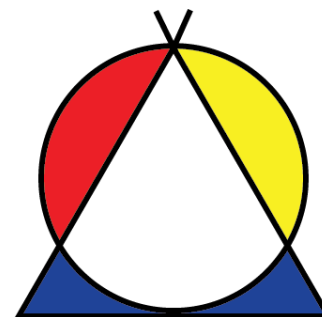
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Continuum of Care

NiGiNan Housing Ventures has been building capacity since 2004.

By relying on ceremony and basing our programming around the four natural laws, we have been blessed with success and growth in our programming which allows residents to move to different complexes depending on their needs, situation, and condition.



Hiy Hiy

www.niginan.ca



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NETWORKING / TRADESHOW / LUNCH

11:30AM – 1:00PM

Room: All Rooms

**WiFi: Assembly Of First Nations
Password: AOFN2023**

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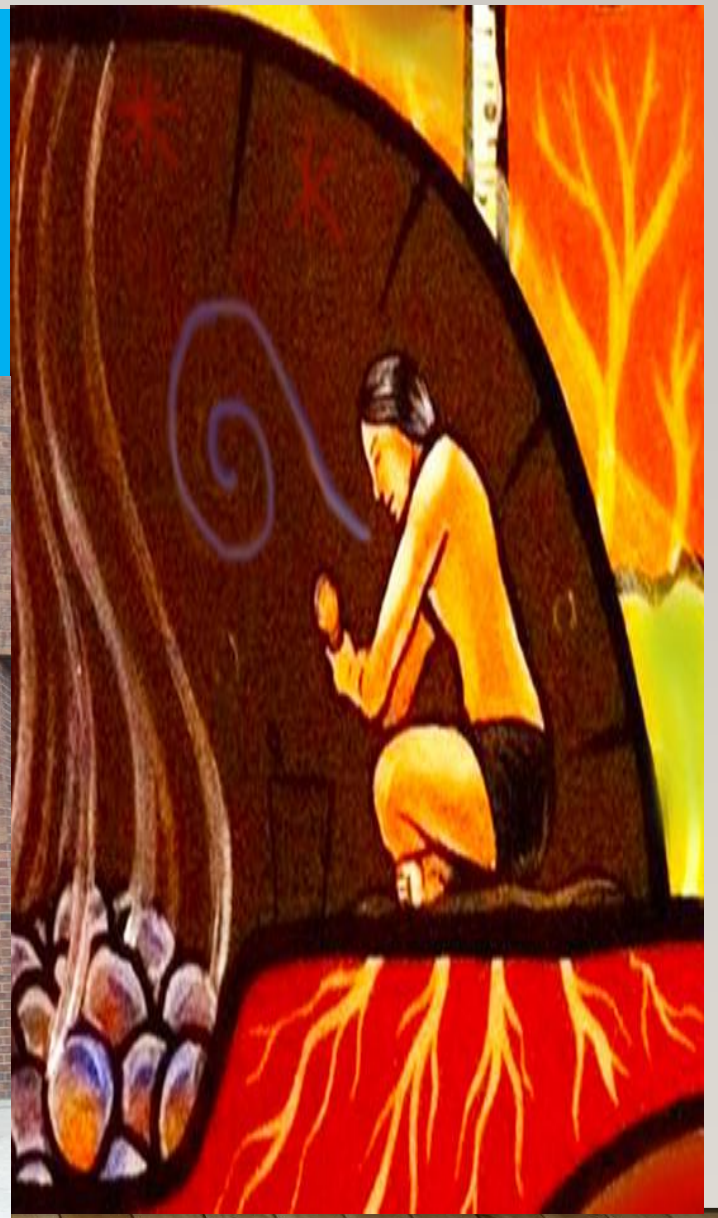
Helping Homeless Indigenous Men Find Their Mino Bimaadiziwin

Steve Teekins, Executive
Director, Na-Me-Res

NA-ME-RES



**NATIVE
MEN'S
RESIDENCE**

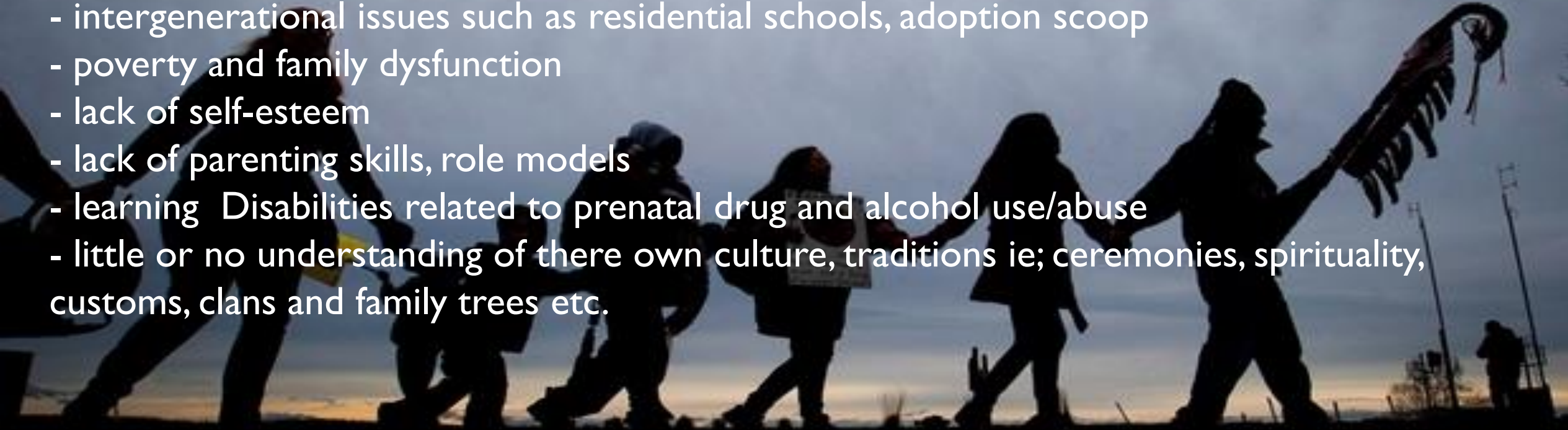


Indigenous Challenges

~ Indigenous people are at the bottom of every meaningful statistical category, High school graduation rates, average income, percent of homelessness, and life expectancy.

~ what are the issues?

- intergenerational issues such as residential schools, adoption scoop
- poverty and family dysfunction
- lack of self-esteem
- lack of parenting skills, role models
- learning Disabilities related to prenatal drug and alcohol use/abuse
- little or no understanding of there own culture, traditions ie; ceremonies, spirituality, customs, clans and family trees etc.

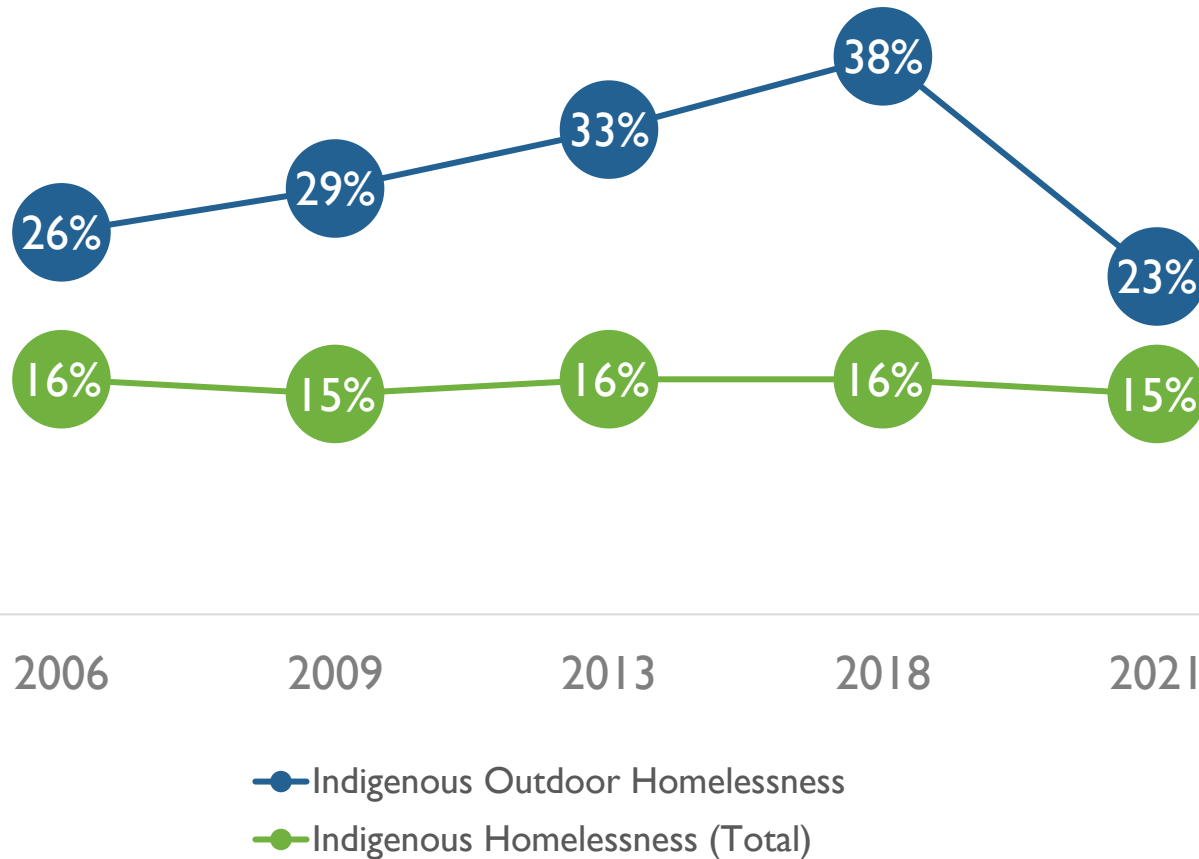


INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS IN TORONTO: 2021 STREET NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

- Indigenous people continue to be overrepresented among people experiencing homelessness in Toronto, especially people staying outdoors and in encampments
- An estimated 1,042 Indigenous people were staying outdoors and in City-administered shelters on the night of April 21, 2021
- Indigenous men represent the largest share of Indigenous homelessness;
- Indigenous people are more likely to experience chronic homelessness, to first experience homelessness as children/youth, and to have foster care experience
- Increasing income and access to affordable and supporting housing were identified as the most important supports for finding housing for Indigenous people
- Indigenous people were more likely to report health challenges, particularly mental health challenges and multiple health challenges



65 PERSISTENT OVERREPRESENTATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN TORONTO



- Indigenous people represent 15% of people experiencing homelessness yet approximately 2% of the general population of Toronto
- It is estimated that 1,042 Indigenous people were staying outdoors and in City-administered shelters on April 21, 2021

Na-Me-Res' (Native Men's Residence) mission is to provide temporary and transitional housing to Indigenous men experiencing homelessness in Toronto while providing outreach and support services to Toronto's broader Indigenous homeless population. Na-Me-Res employs a culture-based approach to address the clients' physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs while facilitating access to available social and financial supports that will assist them in securing and maintaining stable, safe and affordable housing. Na-Me-Res strives to provide a caring, compassionate and safe environment as well as opportunities for clients to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence required to lead healthy and self-determined lives.

Overview:

- Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Employ over 70 staff
- Abstinence based shelter
- Support Toronto and some regions of the GTA
 - Specialized in supporting Indigenous Men
 - Housing and Homelessness



WHO WE ARE:

- Non-profit , charitable organization.
- We assist Indigenous and non-Indigenous men experiencing homelessness. Using a culture based approach with securing stable, safe and affordable housing while helping to achieve their goals.
- We provide temporary, transitional and permanent housing.
- Offer outreach services and life skills programs with support services.
- We provide a culturally based continuum of care



THE MEN'S RESIDENCE



Emergency Shelter

- 71 beds, open to Indigenous and non-Indigenous men. We provide temporary shelter, assistance and support to secure housing appropriate to their needs. The residence is one of the few abstinence based shelters in the city.
- We had a nurse of staff and weekly visits from a Psychiatrist and Medical Doctor
- Men's Residence clients receive:
 - A clean, comfortable bed
 - Fresh, nutritious meals
 - Access to our cultural programming
 - Assistance in finding permanent housing

SAGATAY

(A NEW BEGINNING)
26 VAUGHAN ROAD



Transitional Housing

- Sagatay offers a safe, abstinence based supportive environment. Sagatay has 25 beds for men who are prepared to make the move from homelessness and Corrections Canada to permanent housing.
- As part of the Sagatay program, they receive:
 - A comfortable bed in an individual or shared room, equipped with washrooms, showers, and on-site laundry
 - Access to our cultural programming
 - Skills development through the Apaenmowineen program

• Apaenmowinneen (Having Confidence in Myself)



26 Vaughan Road

Lifeskills, literacy, Cree and Ojibway Language, gardening,



26 Vaughan Road

(MK) MINO KAAJIGOOWIN
(FINDING THE GOOD TO CHANGE ONES SELF OR
DIRECTION IN LIFE)

Ngim kowa Njichaag (Reclaiming my spirit)

Elders, Sweats, Men's Teachings



Agency Wide

Outreach

- Mobile Housing – drop-ins, coffee shops
- Street Outreach – parks, ravines, bridges
- Aftercare – follow-up supports to those housed
- Elder Outreach – Elders working with Street Outreach

20A Vaughan Road



O'Gitchidaa Mushkiki Wigwam



Long term housing

- 22-unit independent living residence in Parkdale.
- These bachelor, 1 and 2 bedrooms apartments are available to our Indigenous male clients
- O'Gitchidaa Mushkiki Wigwam provides a nice, spacious unit at a reasonable rent.
- The rents charged are below market rent levels, making it affordable to the men moving into the rental units.
- This long-term housing solution is safe and affordable.

HOMEWOOD AVE PART 2

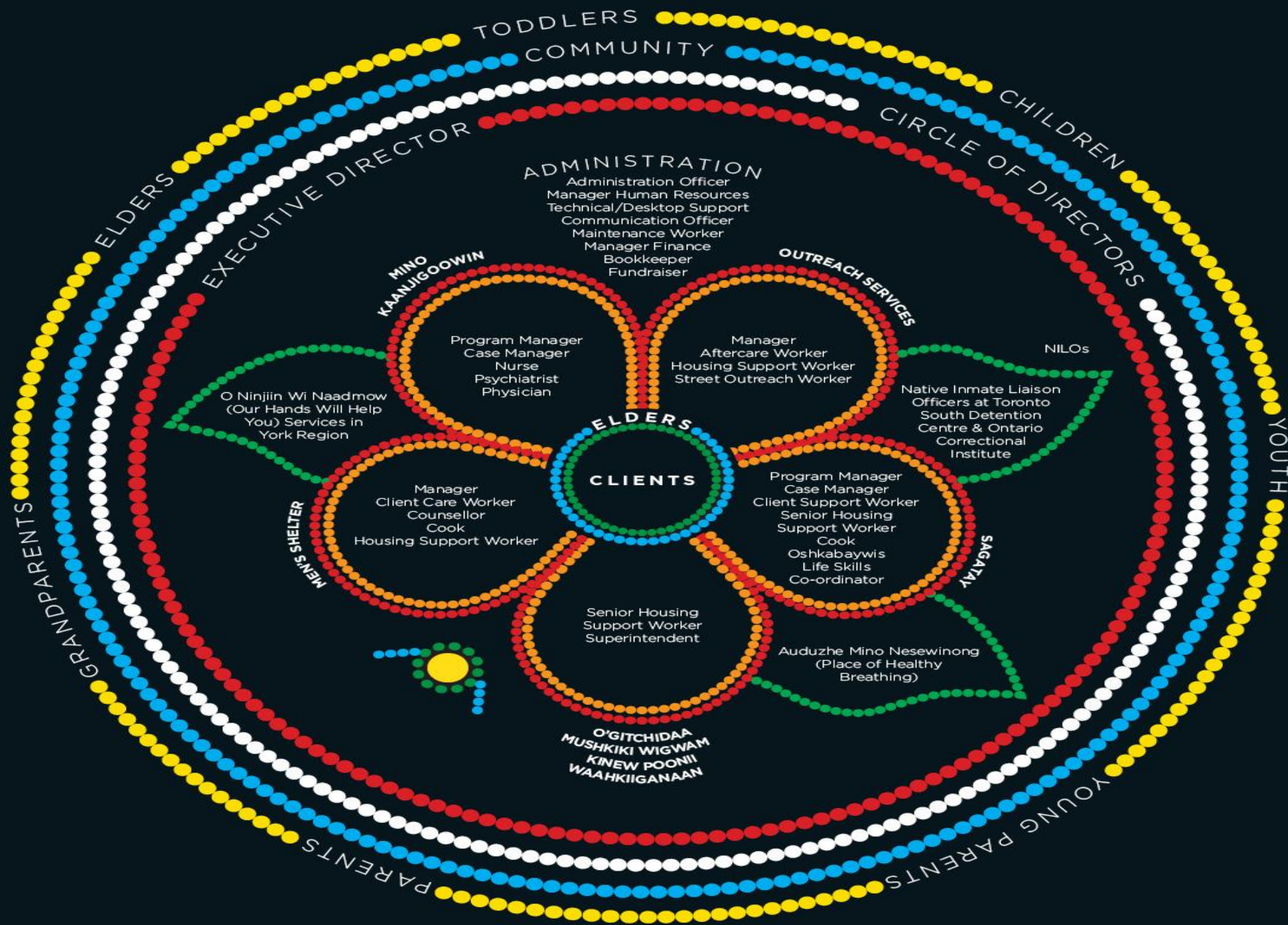
Long Term Housing

- 16 self contained one bed room units
- 1st floor will be completely accessible for tenants with disabilities
- On site superintendent
- Improved street appeal
- We plan to be good neighbours
- We have a vested interest in seeing our tenants be successful

AFTER

BEFORE





Audzhe Mino Nesewinong COVID-19 Response Model

For Us, By Us. Nothing About Us Without Us.

Goal: Work together in a good way to provide culturally safe, timely, and easy to access COVID-19 testing, testing follow-up, and contact tracing for First Nations, Inuit, Métis and their families in Tkaronto.



MEEGWETCH, NIA'WEN (THANK YOU) QUESTIONS?

Steve Teekens

Executive Director

Na-Me-Res

Toronto, ON

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**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*

NETWORKING AND TRADESHOW BREAK

2:30PM – 2:45PM

Room: Mountbatten Ballroom

WiFi: Assembly Of First Nations
Password: AOFN2023

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On-Community Data Toolkit Dialogue Session

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EVP, Growth, Helpseeker, Technologies

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Senior Policy Analyst, Housing and Homelessness, AFN



Development of a First Nations On-Community Homelessness Data Collection Methodology

Resolution 79/2019



- Resolution 79/2019 passed for Action Plan on First Nations homelessness
- Objectives: Understand homelessness scope, identify causes and service gaps
 - Determine the number of First Nations people experiencing homelessness;
 - Analyse the data to determine the causes and the gaps in service
 - Develop a mechanism to allow First Nations to access data collected for their own future use.



Background

- Inconsistent data collection on First Nations homelessness
- Existing data primarily on urban homelessness
- Lack of systematic information sharing with First Nations from urban centres
- Resultant challenges in planning infrastructure and advocating for resources

Assembly of First Nations initiated a scoping process to examine options for developing an approach and a tool that could be used by First Nations or regions to enhance data collection on the experience of homelessness in communities



Current data gaps on First Nations homelessness:

- Census data not First Nations-specific; not owned and controlled by First Nations
- Insufficient data on hidden homelessness, on and off-community
- Limited understanding of resources for homelessness among First Nations individuals
- Data lacking on experiences from 2SLGBTQQIA+, youth, women, adults, seniors
- Cannot quantify breadth of needs and experiences between and across First Nations



Objectives

- Develop an approach and tools for First Nations to collect, interpret, and act on data on homelessness

To support the development of tools and methodologies.

HelpSeeker's role ends at the end of March and they will not be involved in any data collection efforts that may be undertaken by First Nations, regions or AFN.





Approach

- Formed a five-member expert team to provide First Nations perspectives
- Met for over 30 hours across several weeks
- Shared initial results with AFN Regional Technicians



Learning





Learning:

No one definition of homelessness, homelessness or disconnection will apply across all First Nations.

Implications:

A data collection or tool needs to be flexible and culturally specific.



Definitions of Homelessness

- Differences in definitions of homelessness
- Western (structural) definitions may not represent First Nations' experiences
- Variations among First Nations' practical and cultural perspectives on homelessness
- Houselessness, loss of land, spiritual disconnection may be part of a community definition





Western / Structural Examples of Homelessness

Visible homelessness: people living outside, in public spaces, or makeshift shelters such as tents or cars

Insecure housing: couch-surfers temporarily staying with family or friends due to lack of housing

Emergency shelters: people living in short-term emergency beds





Regional and Local Adaptation

- Extensive discussion by the Design Team and conversations with Regional Housing Technicians regarding the best definition to be used as a tool.
- Recommendation to use a definition as a starting point, but allow for adaptability to ensure broad usefulness for First Nations.
- Instances where communities have revised a structural definition to better reflect living conditions on-community.



Learning:

The objectives of data collection influence the methods, locations, and questions used in the process.

Implications:

First Nations should clearly define their objectives before committing time and resources to data collection efforts.



Objectives

- Determine homelessness prevalence among First Nations
- Understand reasons for homelessness
- Inform targeted policies and programs
- Evaluate current resources and identify gaps
- Develop programs and services
- Monitor changes in homelessness over time
- Promote regional collaboration and knowledge-sharing
- Secure funding





Learning:

Data collection methods for homelessness vary based on objectives, available resources, and community member participation.

Implications:

There is no universally applicable approach to data collection for enumerating homelessness across First Nations.

With shared objective setting, strong regional consistency can be achieved.



Example: Point-in-Time versus Prevalence

Point-in-Time

Involves surveys or interviews to estimate the current number of people experiencing homelessness

Provides a snapshot of homelessness at a specific point in time

"An estimated 35 people are living in semi-permanent housing situations, in cars, and outdoors (while preferring permanent, indoor residences)."

Prevalence study

Involves talking to a subset of individuals to determine if they have experienced homelessness in their lifetime

Not limited to current housing status

"1 in 5 members have experienced homelessness or housing instability."

Decision Point	Choices	Considerations
Scope of Enumeration	Point-in-time count	Provides a snapshot of current homelessness
	Prevalence study	Captures historical experiences of homelessness
Data Collection Method	Surveys and interviews with individuals experiencing homelessness	Offers detailed understanding of causes and consequences of homelessness
	Estimating homelessness through community leaders	Less accurate but useful for advocacy purposes
Data Collection Location	Door-to-door on community (for historical prevalence)	Excludes individuals living in temporary situations
	Outdoor locations, motels, and temporary living arrangements (for point-in-time count)	Resource-intensive but yields accurate information on the number and nature of people experiencing homelessness
	Shared community spaces, community events, and social and health services	Suitable for larger communities and historical prevalence studies
Information Sources	Surveys with community leaders	Effective for estimating current levels of homelessness
	Existing databases or records	Uses existing resources to gather data on homelessness

Approaches Created by the Design Team



Community Experience Tool

- Measures current levels of homelessness
- Gathers information from community leaders or administrators
- Provides best estimates on the number of people experiencing homelessness
- Allows for flexible definitions of homelessness

Individual Experiences of Homelessness Tool

- Measures current levels of homelessness
- Collects information from individuals experiencing homelessness
- Records the stories of individuals with autonomy to define their own experiences

Guidance for Engaging with Urban Centres

- Supports First Nations to access data collected by urban centres as part of the Reaching Home Coordinated Count

Community Experience Tool

- First Nation Information
- About You
- Definition of Homelessness
- Estimating Homelessness
- Migration
- Data Quality
- Barriers to Better Data Collection
- Estimating Homelessness (Alternate Option)





Community Experience Tool

- Where are you staying tonight?
- Are you happy with your current living arrangements?
- How long have you been in this living situation?
- How did your living arrangement come to be?
- What is your ideal living situation?
- How would you describe your housing situation to a friend or family member?
- Are you experiencing any health concerns that impact your living situation?
- What positive supports exist in your life?
- Optional demographics questions

What is your ideal living situation?

Record comments: _____

Indoors
Outdoors
By myself
With family/friends
On community
Off community



Accessing Urban Data Collection

- Establishing a connection with the appropriate Community Entity
- Questions to bring forward
 - How is data collected from First Nations individuals safely and appropriately?
 - Are there opportunities for collaboration to align data collection with First Nation goals?
 - Who is the data shared with and for what purpose?
 - How can consent processes be adapted to allow sharing of individual survey data with the First Nation?



Actively seek input and feedback from First Nations regarding collection methods and tools.

Next Steps

Engage First Nations and regional partners to gauge their level of interest in piloting

Share tools and guidance developed for feedback





Discussion 1:

Is it desirable to create a common framework for measuring the extent and impact of homelessness across First Nations?





Discussion 2:

How could your First Nation, region, or organization use this data if it was available?





Discussion 3:

How can we design a data collection tool that offers flexibility to measure homelessness both on and off-community, while effectively honoring the nuanced experiences and dynamics of homelessness between First Nations communities?



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THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

*Please make your way back to the Churchill Ballroom for the
Closing Ceremony*