



ASSEMBLY OF
FIRST NATIONS

ASSEMBLÉE DES
PREMIÈRES NATIONS

HOUSING
*NATIONAL FORUM ON
INCOME ASSISTANCE*

September 12, 2024



OVERVIEW

AFN HOUSING OVERVIEW

- National First Nations Housing & Related Infrastructure Strategy
- Close the housing gap jointly with AFN Infrastructure
- Adjusting urban housing funding & strategy development
- AFN 2025 \$135.1 billion Pre Budget Submission, support advocacy
- Transfer First Nations Market Housing Fund to First Nations control
- Influencing Canada's Housing Plan
- Co-implementing Auditor General's 2024 on reserve housing report



National First Nations Housing & Related Infrastructure Strategy

FIRST NATIONS CONTROL OF HOUSING

- 2018 Strategy adopted by resolution guides on-going work
- Strategy has four pillars
 - Governance & program delivery
 - Funding & financing
 - Supporting First Nations capacity development &
 - Sharing information with First Nations
- AFN work with federal government advances the 4 pillars
- Federal representatives committed to co-development in theory
- First Nations funded to explore transfer of federal housing services
- Auditor General Report criticized departments' transfer policy
- Federal transfer separate from rights; they're addressed elsewhere



**CLOSING
THE FIRST
NATIONS
INFRASTRUCTURE
(& HOUSING)
GAP
(CTIG)**

\$135.1 BILLION NEEDED TO CLOSE THE GAP

- AFN's 2025 housing pre-budget submission = \$135.1 billion
- Budget 2024 Federal on-reserve commitment = \$488 million/5 years for First Nations both housing and infrastructure.
- AFN advocacy to highlight investment benefits to Canadians
- AFN CTIG website <https://afn.ca/economy-infrastructure/infrastructure/closing-the-infrastructure-gap/>
- Conference Board of Canada report soon to highlight impact on Canada's Gross Domestic Product & jobs to be created
- New priority in AFN-Canada Permanent Bilateral Mechanism
- AFN leading efforts to identify sources of investment capital
- Research: First Nations limits debt-carrying capacity
- Additional land, climate change, child welfare, & other factors



URBAN, RURAL & NORTHERN HOUSING (URN)

- Pan-Indigenous group controls 70% of URN funds
- First Nations get \$533 million/ 7 years, flows in 2024
- AFN-Federal clash of housing visions
- Fed decision ignores Chiefs' resolutions & UNDRIP
- Feds undermine nationhood & governance
- Onus on feds to change URN approach/rebuild trust



URBAN, RURAL & NORTHERN HOUSING (URN)

- AFN seeks \$2.667 billion for First Nations from 2024 fall economic statement & 2025 federal budget
- AFN budget request would raise First Nations' share to equal to new pan-Indigenous organization (\$2.8 billion / 7 years)
- Seeking research funds to determine the full housing needs & cost of off-community First Nations citizens.
- Seek resources for all levels of First Nations & their organizations to strengthen capacity



AUDITOR GENERAL 2024 REPORT ON RESERVE HOUSING

- March 19, 2024, Auditor General (AG) On-reserve Housing Report
 - *“Current policies and practices have just not kept pace with the government’s commitment to reconciliation & self-determination.”*
 - *“A fundamental shift is urgently needed to drive significant progress.”*
- AFN & fed partners working together to implement AG’s 8 recommendations, emphasis on *“fundamental shift ...needed”*



FIRST NATIONS MARKET HOUSING FUND (FNMHF)

- FNMHF provides home ownership help to First Nations
- 2008 original intent to transfer control to First Nations.
- Its Trustees are all qualified First Nations people.
- It has helped many First Nations build their capacity & it has helped build over 500 houses.
- AFN working closely with Fund & CMHC to influence Cabinet decision on transfer of control
- Some First Nations will apply to the new National pan-Indigenous Housing Centre for funds.
- First Nations not to blame when Canada forces them to apply through this route as the only way to take full advantage of funds intended for their citizens



Influencing Canada's Housing Plan (CHP)

- Federal Housing, Infrastructure & Communities department leads CHP design & implementation
- CHP announced Sept. 2023; 18 new initiatives so far
- CHP's 3 main features *“Building more homes, Making it easier to rent or own a home & Helping Canadians who can't afford a home”*
- Includes *Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund* (20% to north & Indigenous), a new Rapid Housing stream, \$5 billion in loan guarantees to First Nations
- HICC offer to AFN to influence some new programs
- AFN goal to ensure Canada's efforts to address mainstream housing crisis does not sideline federal First Nations housing investment needs & does not contribute to off-reserve migration