



National First Nations Homelessness Action Plan

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Assembly of First Nations

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National First Nations Homelessness Action Plan



Vision Statement

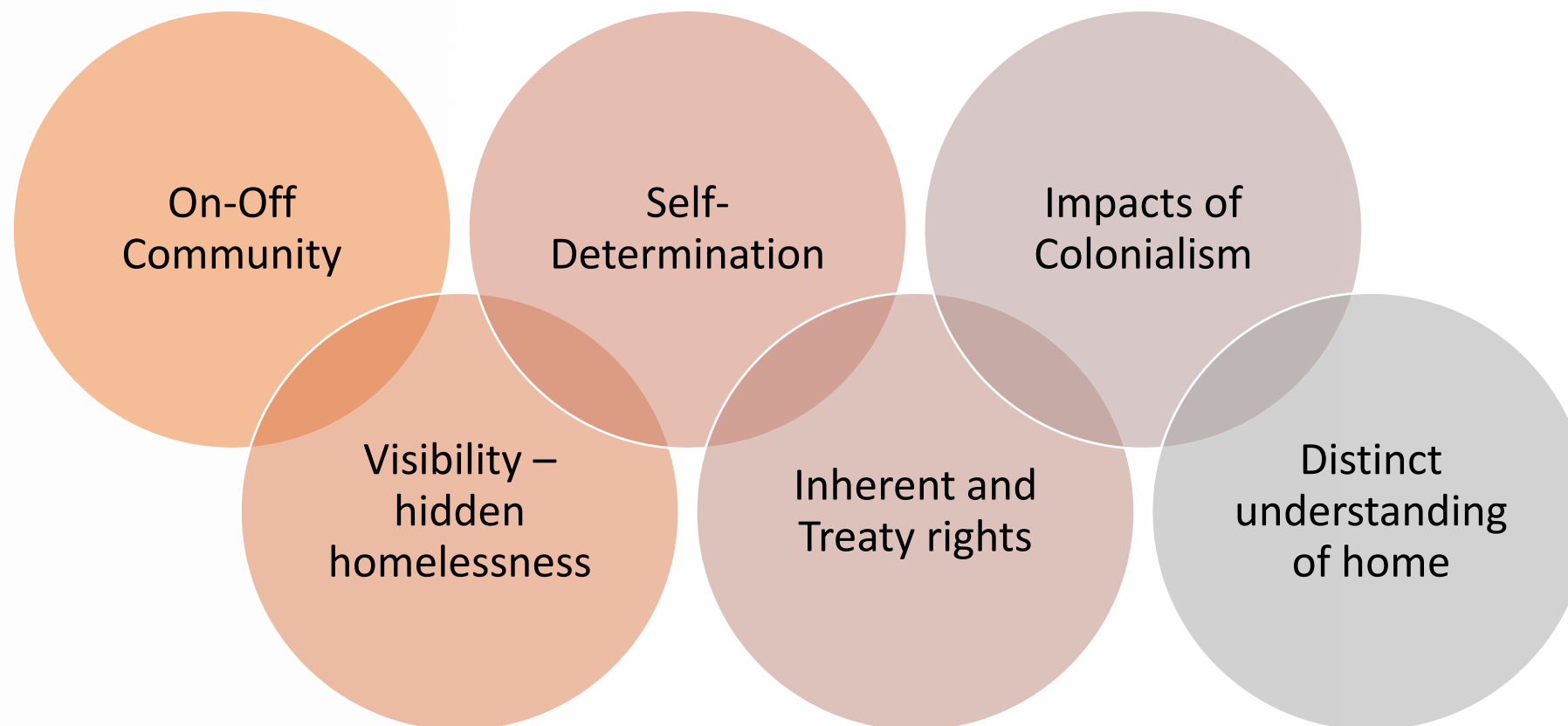
First Nations control and deliver holistic and culturally safe supports and services so their citizens can access safe and supportive housing no matter where they live.



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First Nations Homelessness: Distinct Factors





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Background and AFN Mandates

AFN 10-Year National First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy

Resolution 79/2019: Action Plan for First Nations Homelessness On and Off-Reserve

Resolution 75/2023: Approval and Implementation of a National First Nations Homelessness Action Plan

Resolution 44/2024: Support for First Nations-Led Responses to Chronic and Unsheltered Homelessness



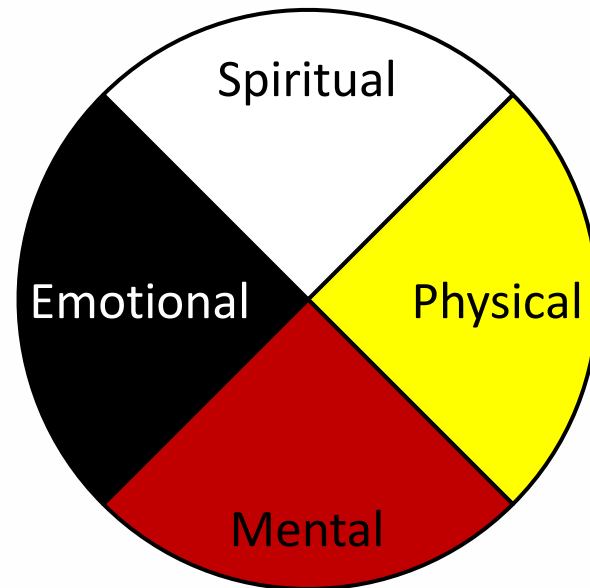
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Root Causes of First Nations Homelessness

- Intergenerational Trauma
- Loss of language, ceremony and tradition

- Loss of Identity
- Disconnection from Community and Traditions
- Loss of Language



- History of Residential Schools
- Forced relocation
- Impacts of Child Welfare

- Social Issues/Addictions
- Racism and Discrimination



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Statistics and Context



9,191

Existing data indicates that 9,191 First Nations individuals are experiencing homelessness on any given night. This is likely a low estimate given the limitations in existing data, and the lack of data on homelessness within First Nations communities.



28%

First Nations people accounted for 28% of the unhoused population in 44 communities that reported specifically on the number of First Nations people experiencing homelessness, but comprised 2% of the overall population in those same communities on average.



1 in 38

1 in 38 First Nations individuals face homelessness each night—a rate 23 times higher than their non-Indigenous counterparts.





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Action Plan Objectives





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Prevention: The Importance of Direct Supports

Providing direct supports such as income assistance, rent or food supplements is seen as one of the most effective ways to prevent homelessness in the immediate term.

Research needed into how gaps in services such as the on-reserve Income Assistance program contribute to First Nations homelessness.

Need to identify resources for First Nations-led support programs, including rent or food supplements, transportation, and other essentials to support citizens at risk of homelessness.



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Reaching Home: First Nations Distinctions-Based Funding

- Funding for First Nations to address homelessness through Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada
- Regional approach: working with regional organizations to get direction from leadership on how funding should roll out in each region
- Most regions currently negotiating agreements with INFC or rolling out funding, with some regions still determining an approach
- Current funding inadequate relative to the need
- AFN continues to advocate for long-term, adequate and sustainable funding for First Nations to exercise their right to care for their citizens no matter where they live



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It is deeply troubling to feel like you do not have a home on your own land. This was the place where our ancestors practiced their spirituality, defended their land, hunted, and sang songs to the Creator. Those cultural practices are directly tied to the land. Our community members are home.

-engagement participant



SAVE THE DATE



Assembly of First Nations (AFN)

National First Nations Homelessness and Mental Wellness Forum

November 13-14, 2024 | Vancouver, B.C.

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is hosting the National First Nations Homelessness and Mental Wellness Forum on November 13-14, 2024, in Vancouver, British Columbia (B.C.), on the unceded and ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. The purpose of the forum is to explore and share wholistic solutions, best practices, and future advocacy opportunities for enhancing First Nations community well-being. Participants will engage in dialogue, networking, and hear from presenters on the latest developments in homelessness and mental wellness.

Who should attend:

- First Nations Chiefs
- Professionals in the Homelessness and Mental Health sectors, including Service Providers, Consultants, Technicians, and Government
- First Nations housing, health and social managers and technicians
- First Nations organizations
- Persons with lived or living experiences of homelessness

For more information, including sponsorship, speaking, and tradeshow opportunities, please contact housing.homelessness@afn.ca. For questions regarding accessibility (disability) accommodations, please email fnpwd@afn.ca. Additional information will be available soon on www.afn.ca.