



What is the history of this issue and how does it impact First Nations?

The cornerstone to transformative change in First Nations housing and related infrastructure is the National First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy (Strategy). Providing the framework for long-term approaches for First Nations to transition to and assume jurisdiction over housing and related infrastructure, the Strategy offers goals and actions related to governance and delivery, funding and finance, skills and capacity and information sessions. Detailed initiatives, outcomes (short-, medium-, long-term), and performance measures are proposed in its implementation plan. Other work serves as a guide for First Nations to assume care and control over their housing systems.

How has the AFN's recent advocacy affected this area?

AFN's 2021 Pre-Budget Submission included estimated housing needs in excess of \$40 billion and an additional required investments \$21 billion to build homes for citizens living away to migrate to their home communities— the cost to close the housing gap in First Nations.

In the 2022 Federal Budget announcement, we expected Canada to commit significant investments to address decades of federally underfunded housing neglect. Our advocacy efforts did not go unnoticed. We saw the highest ever investment announced distinctly for First Nations housing at \$2.4 Billion over five years. While we welcome investments for First Nations housing, the amount represents only 5% of the \$44B to meet current housing needs. Similarly, for Northwest Territories and Yukon First Nations, the budgets committed are disappointing.

The Housing and Homeless Sector continues to advocate for additional funding to close the housing gap, knowing First Nations require much more to exercise jurisdiction over housing, and experience positive outcomes in health, education, and economic progress.

Where do we hope to go in the future?

The AFN is working with federal officials to lay out the parameters of a new federal First Nations housing policy through a co-developed Memorandum to Cabinet (MC). The anticipated result would be negotiated agreements with First Nations through which the federal government will provide the sufficient multi-year funding for First Nations to manage their own housing systems.

Continued advocacy by the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCoHI), Chiefs and all First Nations partners will be needed. The AFN will support Chiefs and communicate effectively to increase visibility, awareness, and support for the National First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy in pursuit of transformative change.



Other initiatives to advance First Nations jurisdiction over housing include:

- Developing a business plan for Chiefs' consideration to establish a National First Nations Housing Policy and Research Centre;
- Conducting preliminary work leading to the second national First Nations housing survey;
- Looking at solutions for First Nations housing skills and capacity needs to ensure housing professionals effectively plan, lead, organize and control their housing;
- Supporting the Dene Nation in advancing their specific housing priorities;
- Developing a First Nations Housing Performance Measurement Framework to apply a well-being lens to housing, emphasizing the wholistic well-being of First Nations; and
- Ensuring First Nations views are reflected in the federal governments upcoming, Urban, Rural, Northern and Indigenous Housing Strategy.