



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY

December 5,6,7, 2023, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 75/2023

TITLE: Approval and Implementation of a National First Nations Homelessness Action Plan

SUBJECT: Housing and Homelessness

MOVED BY: Chief Lance Haymond, Kebaowek First Nation, QC

SECONDED BY: Chief Daniel Manuel, Upper Nicola Band, BC

DECISION Carried by Consensus

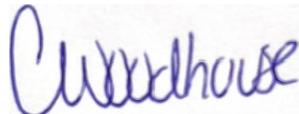
WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration)* states:

- i. Article 21 (1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
- ii. Article 21 (2): States shall take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions. Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.
- iii. Article 23: Indigenous Peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

B. First Nations people experience homelessness at a rate 23 times higher than the rest of the population and comprise 28% of the unoused population in communities that specifically collect this data.

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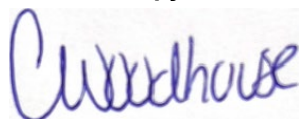
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- C. First Nations homelessness is a direct consequence of colonial practices and policies that have dispossessed First Nations of their traditional territories, economies, governance systems, histories, languages, and worldviews.
- D. First Nations require dedicated, adequate, and sustainable funding to manage and deliver their own homelessness services.
- E. First Nations citizens living in the north, youth, Elders, people dealing with addictions or in recovery, people transitioning from correctional facilities, women fleeing violence, 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples, single parent families, and Veterans have distinct experiences of homelessness which require specific consideration.
- F. First Nations have the right to design, deliver and control their own housing and social services aimed to address homelessness impacting their citizens no matter where they live, in alignment with the UN Declaration.
- G. In 2018, First Nations-in-Assembly approved the *10 Year First Nations National Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy* (Housing Strategy) which aims to support First Nations care, control, and management of their own housing and infrastructure.
- H. Assembly of First Nations Resolution 79/2019, *Action Plan for First Nations Homelessness On- and Off-Reserve*, directed the AFN to develop a draft National First Nations Homelessness Action Plan (Action Plan) in alignment with the Housing Strategy to be presented to First Nations-in-Assembly for approval and implementation.
- I. A draft Action Plan has been developed which provides a detailed road map towards fulfilling its vision: 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.
- J. The Action Plan sets out concrete actions pertaining to research and data collection, support for citizens off-community, service navigation, partnerships, governance, and other key areas to advance First Nations priorities related to addressing homelessness. It also contains several recommendations aimed at the federal government, provincial/territorial governments, and service providers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

1. Adopt the National First Nations Homelessness Action Plan Action Plan to its full implementation, in alignment with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) *10 Year First Nations National Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy*.
2. Direct the AFN to develop an implementation plan laying out timelines and detailed steps to meet the objectives laid out in the Action Plan.
3. Direct the AFN to develop an advocacy plan including targeted messaging to raise awareness about First Nations homelessness, to support First Nations in accessing resources to develop and deliver homelessness services, and to hold governments and service providers accountable to meeting the recommendations laid out in the Action Plan and supporting its implementation.

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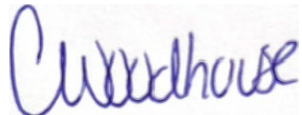


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4. Call upon the AFN to develop an updated and renewed National First Nations Homelessness Action Plan in 2028 or earlier, in alignment with the vision and objectives of an updated Housing Strategy, once developed.
5. Direct the AFN to urge the federal government, provincial and territorial governments, and service providers to work with First Nations in revising policies and amending program criteria to better address First Nations homelessness in line with the recommendations of the Action Plan.
6. Call upon the AFN to advocate for long term, sustained, needs-based funding options for First Nations to develop and deliver their own programs and services to address homelessness impacting their citizens no matter where they live.

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