



ABORIGINAL HOUSING  
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

# Indigenous Housing: Inclusion & Autonomy

Margaret Pfoh, CEO, Aboriginal Housing Management  
Association

# Territorial Acknowledgement

AHMA would like to acknowledge with gratitude the Mississaugas of Credit Anishinaabeg for hosting us on their treaty lands on which we are gathering, learning and sharing with one another today.

We also would like to graciously acknowledge the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat who share territory, it is an honour to be here.





Housing and Reconciliation

# Indigenous Inclusion & Autonomy

# Who is AHMA?

## Vision

A globally recognized leader in Indigenous housing solutions across the housing spectrum.

## Mission

Lead and advance the housing rights for all Indigenous People living in British Columbia.



- First of its kind non-profit Indigenous housing authority in Canada.
- Direct Partners with the BC Government.
- 41 members, each an Indigenous housing & service provider.
- Our members serve +5000 Indigenous families.

✧ AHMA oversees 4200 housing units with an additional 1000 upcoming.

✧ AHMA staff has grown 300% in 10 years.

✧ AHMA has successfully managed \$175 million of public funds in the last 5 years.



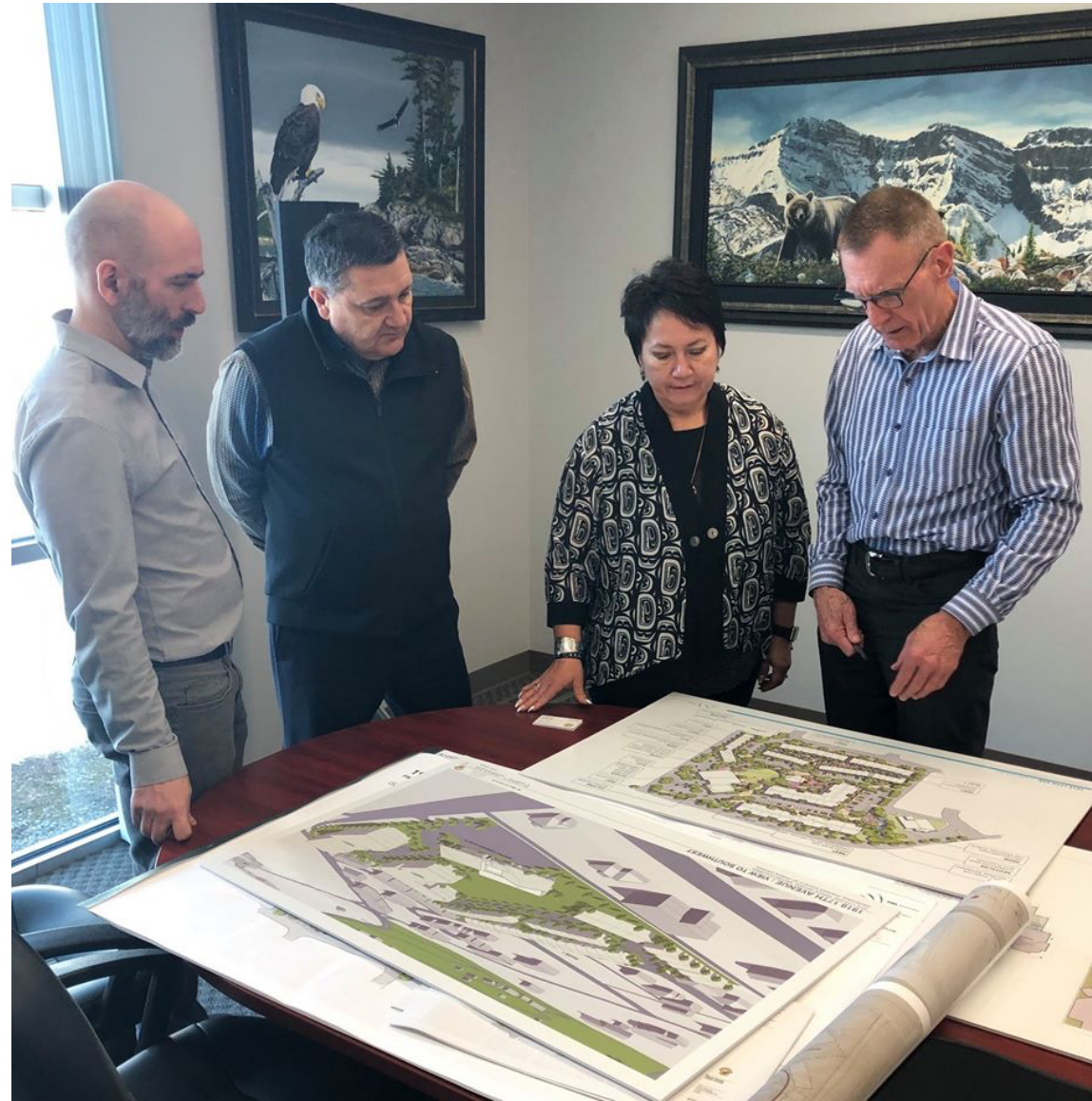
✧ AHMA has grown from 17 to 41 members across BC. Governed by an Independent Board and Good Governance Committee.

## Meeting the needs of our Indigenous communities

In total, AHMA members offer +35 different types of service programs from homelessness prevention to transition homes, mental health addictions and more. Including the following:

- Supportive Senior Housing
- Aboriginal Housing Initiative
- Women's Transition Housing & Support Programs
- Homeless at Risk
- Community Partnership Initiative.

Our members support our Indigenous communities no matter where they fall on the housing continuum.



# Indigenous challenges require Indigenous voices, experiences & knowledge for true sustainable solutions



1/6 Indigenous People in Canada live in BC.



1/15 Indigenous People in urban centers are homeless.



+80% of all Indigenous people live off of Reserve.



In Vancouver alone, 40% of the homeless population are Indigenous Peoples.

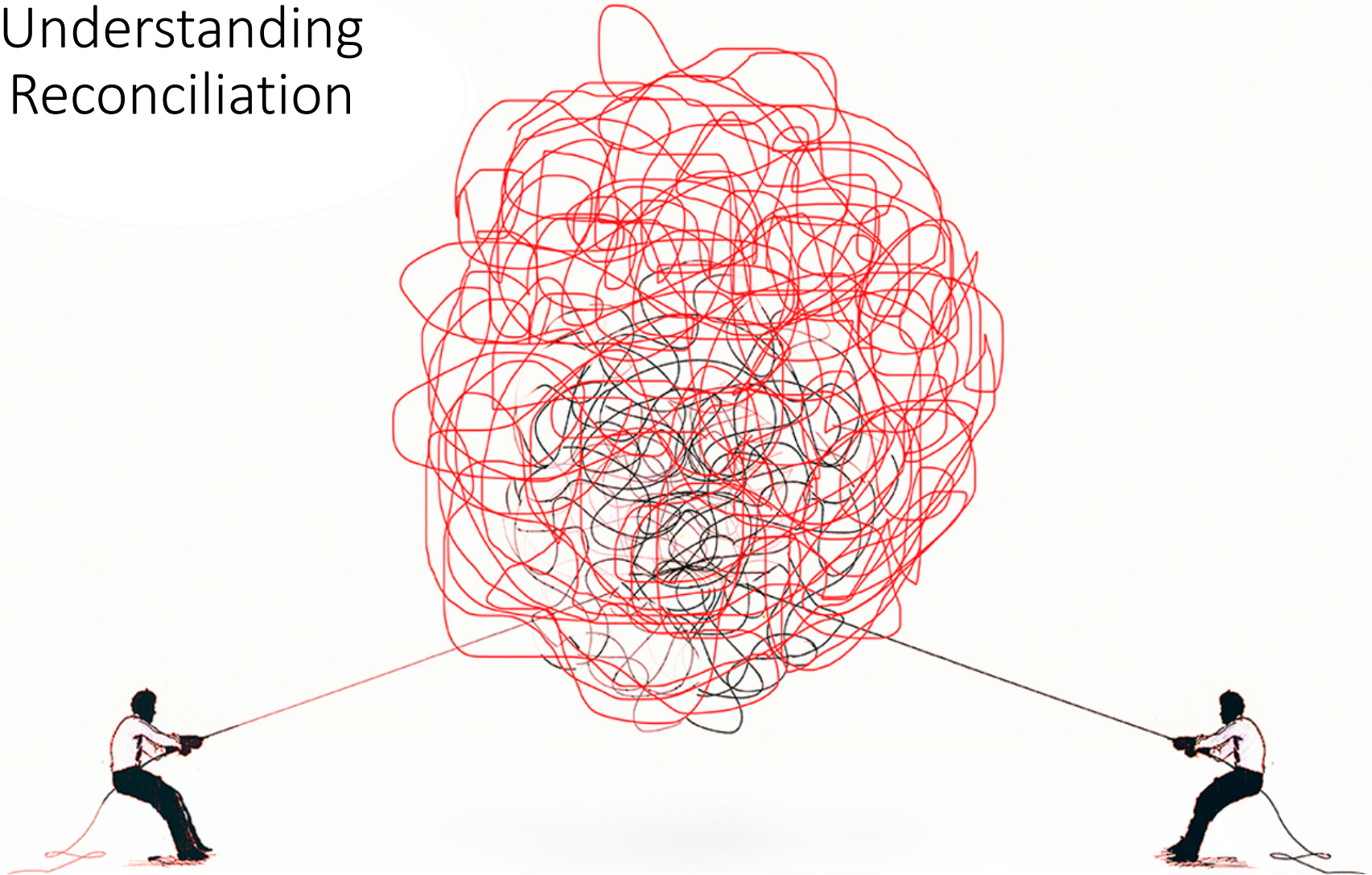


**400,000**

1/5 Indigenous Peoples in Canada live in housing in need of major repair. That is over 400,000 people.



# Understanding Reconciliation



# Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC)

“Reconciliation is an ongoing individual and collective process and will require commitment from all those affected including First Nations, Inuit and Métis former Indian Residential School (IRS) students, their families, communities, religious entities, former school employees, government and the people of Canada. Reconciliation may occur between any of the above groups. “

# United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

- Article 23 states: 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.
- Promote the rights of indigenous peoples affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements with States
- End all forms of discrimination and oppression wherever they occur.

A photograph showing a group of men in formal attire. In the foreground, a man in a yellow jacket with a blue sash is out of focus. Behind him, three men in dark suits and ties are in focus, looking towards the camera. The background is a wood-paneled room, likely a legislative chamber.

B.C. makes history as the first province in Canada to  
pass legislation to implement UNDRIP into BC Law,  
December 2019

## Unpacking Bill 41

- Consult with Indigenous groups when making decisions which may affect such groups' Aboriginal rights.
- Pursue and achieve reconciliation.
- Adopt, implement, and ensure consistency of British Columbia's law with UNDRIP, specifically with respect to the Indigenous right to self-determination.
- Address and close the gap on the significant disadvantages of, and inequalities facing, Indigenous persons respecting Indigenous Housing vis a vis other Canadian citizens.



# Closing the Gap

How an Urban Rural and Northern Housing agreement closes the TRC, UNDRIP gap.

# Building BC: Indigenous Housing Fund

- In 2018 AHMA, in partnership with the Provincial Government announced the Building BC: Indigenous Housing Fund (IHF). Dedicating \$550 million toward 1,750 homes over 10 years.
- Marked the first time a province in Canada had ever provided funding for Indigenous housing both on and off reserve.
- A historical investment that encourages the inclusion of all Indigenous Peoples no matter where they reside.




IHF Announcement with Minister of  
Municipal Affairs and Housing Selena  
Robinson, Margaret Pfoh at Katsie First  
Nations. November 2018



## Building Bridges: IHF and Beyond


- AHMA continues to pursue initiatives that ensure we create, maintain and establish stronger relationships with municipalities, First Nations and all Indigenous housing and service providers.
- AHMA facilitates consultation with newly created Housing Societies.
- AHMA hosts meetings between our housing & service Providers, local First Nation communities and their municipalities.
- AHMA identifies synergies to create cultural appropriate housing strategies.

A person is sitting on a bench in a city street, looking away from the camera. The background shows a city street with buildings and signs. A white text box is overlaid on the image, containing a quote and the name of the speaker.

**“In Ontario, there are over 80,000 Indigenous People living off-reserve that don’t have safe, affordable housing. Every life is worth of safe, affordable housing.” Justin Marchand, Executive Director, OAHS**



Urban Indigenous Housing & Service Providers and United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, Leilani Farha call for an Urban Indigenous Housing Strategy



“Diversity is having  
a seat at the table,  
inclusion is having  
a voice, and belonging  
is having that voice  
be heard.”

Liz Fosslien

Margaret Pfoh – Chief  
Executive Officer

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