



HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE: FIRST NATIONS NATIONAL HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

OVERVIEW

First Nations Chiefs and Councils have the jurisdiction and authority over housing and infrastructure. Moving towards First Nations care, control and management of housing and related infrastructure requires engagement with First Nations communities and leadership to discuss needs, plans and strategies. First Nations must lead this transformative change.

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolutions 98/2016, *Support the Development of a First Nations National Housing and Infrastructure Strategy*, and 27/2017, *Development of First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Strategy*, direct the AFN Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCoHI) to work in partnership with First Nations and the Government of Canada on the development of a First Nations National Housing and Infrastructure Strategy. The AFN will support engagement sessions with First Nations on the development of a First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Strategy, regional strategies, and plans. The AFN will continue to pressure Canada to provide dedicated financial resources to support engagement with First Nations.

In December 2017, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) was to present a Memorandum to Cabinet (MC) related to an Indigenous Housing Strategy that was to include three separate strategies including First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

The joint Working Group (AFN, CCoHI, ISC, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Health Canada) co-developed a Policy Reform Framework towards a First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Strategy.

AFN Resolution 87/2017, *Support for a National Housing and Infrastructure Policy Framework*, supports the Policy Reform Framework to be included as an Annex in ISC's Memorandum to Cabinet (MC). The Policy Reform Framework sets the ground work for fundamental reform to federal housing and infrastructure programming and is supportive of continued engagement with First Nations communities and leadership to discuss needs, plans and strategies.

Policy Reform Framework Highlights:

- Understand the true costs of housing and infrastructure.
- Strategic research and data gathering exercise.
- First Nations to decide their own level of governance.
- Ongoing engagement to develop strategies and frameworks based on community needs and priorities.
- First Nations engagement sessions are required to ensure transition process is First Nations led.
- Develop a strategic plan with short, medium and long-term objectives.
- Develop options to start the transition process.

UPDATE

The December 2017 Cabinet date for ISC's MC has been postponed. There is currently no Cabinet date set for the MC. ISC has

committed to include the Policy Reform Framework as an Annex to the MC.

NEXT STEPS

As directed by AFN Resolutions, the AFN and CCoHI will continue to work towards:

- Finalizing the Terms of Reference for the Joint Working Group.
- Developing a Joint Work Plan for the Working Group identifying 2018-2019 Priorities.
- Adapting the Policy Reform Framework into a 10 Year First Nations National Housing and related Infrastructure Strategy.
- Developing a Strategic Plan with short, medium and long-term objectives and outcomes to support the transition process.
- Identifying the housing needs by developing a National Template for the collection of standardized and consistent housing data to influence budget 2019.
- Identifying funding needs to support the transition process.
- Supporting engagement with First Nations leadership, communities, technical experts, and regional organizations on strategic considerations of what incremental steps can be taken now, during and after transition.

