

First Nations Housing Reform

BC's Response – Moving Towards Authority

National Water Symposium – February 6, 2018

National CCoHI

- The National Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCoHI) provides political and technical guidance with respect to AFN's engagement with Canada on housing and infrastructure related issues
- CCoHI has political and technical representation from each region – BC members include:
 - Chief Dan George - BC chief's representative
 - Jim Munroe - technical member
 - Sylvia Olsen - technical member

Housing and Infrastructure Reform

- 2016 Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) expressed need to begin dialogue with First Nations on First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Reform
- Minister Bennett stated...“Think out of the box, think big, think Institutions, “Do you need CMHC? Do you need a First Nation CMHC?”
- We are all looking for initiatives that can help pave the way

The BC Experience

- Have a history of substantial on-reserve housing partnership between FN leadership, INAC & CMHC
 - Aboriginal Housing Committee – BC (AHC-BC) was a partnership for many years
 - Tackled many strategic housing priorities and fostered a much closer working relationship between the parties
- Have a history of institutional development
 - FN Health Authority – regional health delivery in chart areas with regional partnership between tribal groups in those areas
 - FN Financing Authority & Financial Management Board – opt in model for all FN in Canada
 - FN Taxation Authority – opt in model for all FN in Canada
- The overwhelming feeling is that housing is the next large scale delivery institution – “it is about time”

Where BC is at!

- Held a Provincial Housing & Infrastructure Forum
 - March 2017 in Victoria, BC
 - Discussed how to move forward on First Nations' authority for aboriginal housing & infrastructure in the BC Region
 - 200 representatives from all areas of the BC housing community and other national representatives provided detail on:
 - Delivery structure, types of services and process moving forward
- BC will work to build a provincial FN housing and infrastructure authority
 - Supported by BC-AFN Chiefs Resolution
- Have created a BC First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Council (HIC)
- Now entering into an extended outreach and design phase – targeting implementation as soon as possible

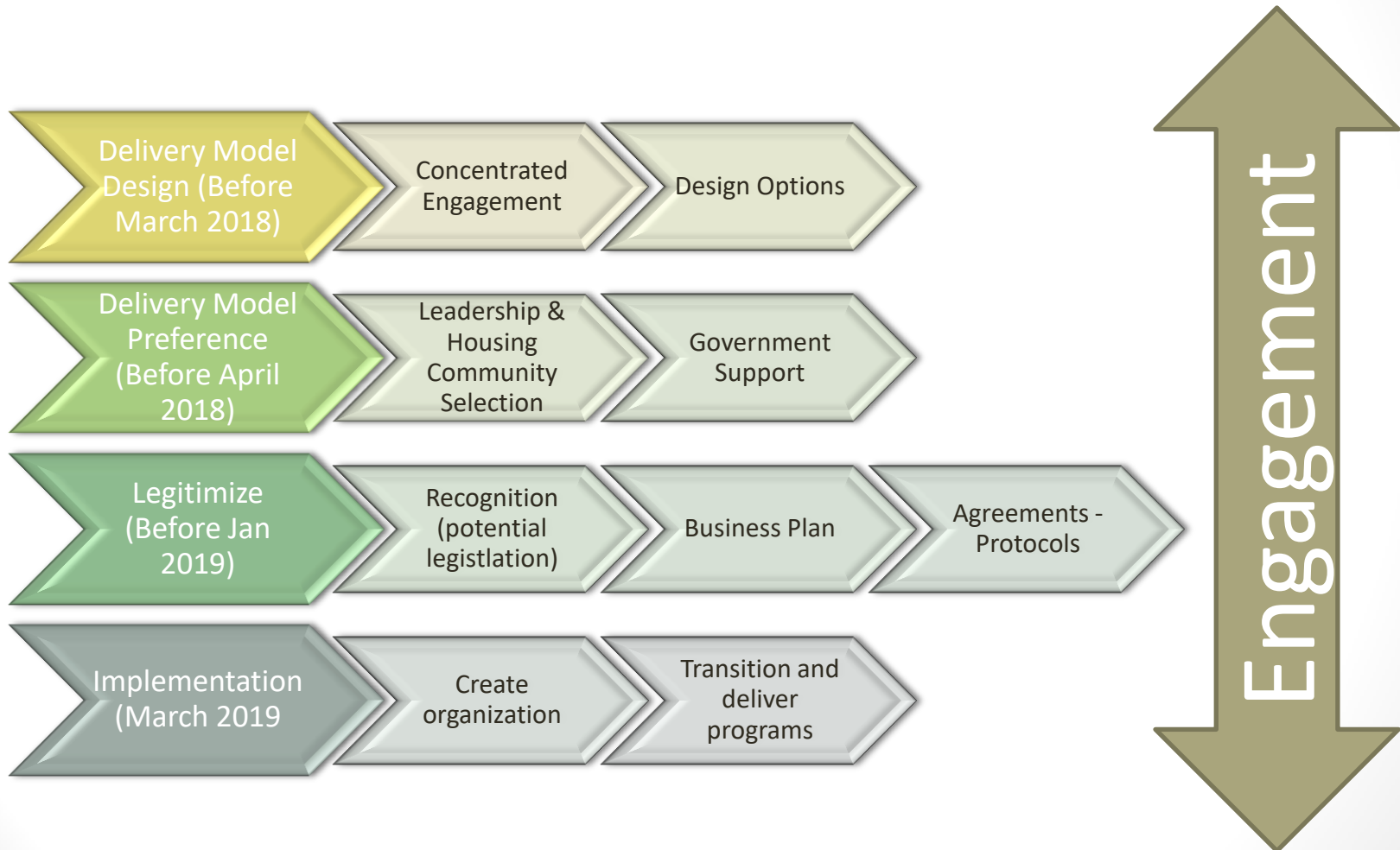
Sustainable Water

- 200 First Nations communities in BC
 - Each has a drinking water system and some have more than one
 - Also many private systems
- BC had more than 100 non-potable water or drinking water advisories on Indian Reserves two decades ago
 - Now down to 10 long-term drinking water advisories (DWA) that are targeted to be addressed in the next few years (DISC web site)
- Many established First Nations communities have aging infrastructure and short-term DWA that need to be addressed
- Many communities have entered into collaborative management arrangements with BC for their traditional territories
 - All are engaged in their domestic water supply watersheds
- Gaining authority over local water infrastructure is an important first step

HIC (BC)

- Looking to increase FN communities success in housing, infrastructure and drinking water.
- Mandate:
 - *As a step in the path towards indigenous self-government, to manage the process to design and implement a First Nation's controlled Housing & Infrastructure Authority in British Columbia that will:*
 - *Assume authority and control for First Nations housing & infrastructure program delivery in British Columbia; and*
 - *deliver associated housing and infrastructure services.*
- Membership:
 - 4 chief representatives (Chief Dan George is the chair, Chief Mark Point is the Vice-Chair)
 - 4 technical representatives (includes Jim Munroe, Sylvia Olsen, Jason Calla and Peter Mitchell)
 - Looking for a youth representative
 - Executive Director – Garry Merkel (past chair – AHC-BC)

Moving Forward



Engagement

- Communications materials
 - Web site
 - Fact Sheets
- Interviews
 - Personal
 - Focus groups
 - Regional (try to integrate with scheduled gatherings)
- Survey
 - Will use in personal interviews and on the web site
- Focus Groups
 - Around specific subject matters, e.g., harmonizing on and off reserve housing
 - Standing group to assist HIC (volunteers)

Please let us know if....

1. You interested in being part of the engagement process.
2. You want further information about HIC (TOR, workplan, outreach materials).
3. You want to be on HIC's mailing list (currently send information to AFN's distribution list).
4. You interested in personally volunteering to engage and put effort into assisting HIC in its outreach and design process through the HIC advisory group.

Housing & Infrastructure Council

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