



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

In 2019, First Nations-in-Assembly passed AFN Resolution 79/2019, *Action Plan for First Nations Homelessness On and Off-Reserve*. This resolution mandates that the AFN develop a national First Nations homelessness strategy, which aims to improve the delivery of federal government programs as well as the related social and fiscal mechanisms to address homelessness for First Nations peoples. It advocates for a comprehensive, multi-partner approach to reducing, preventing, and ultimately eradicating First Nations homelessness in alignment with the goal of transitioning First Nations housing and infrastructure to First Nations management, control, and care.

Due to an urgent need to address homelessness affecting First Nations populations across Canada, the Social Branch has undertaken a coordinated strategy to develop a national *Action Plan for First Nations Homelessness On and Off-Reserve*.

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

The AFN and Employment and Social Development Canada's (ESDC) Joint Technical Working Group are in the process of planning research and engagement that will help determine priorities for allocating funds from the First Nations distinctions-based funding stream of *Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy*. The AFN and ESDC will also co-develop a national *Action Plan for First Nations Homelessness On and Off-Reserve* to help programs and services better address the needs of First Nations homeless populations living within or away from their communities.

The AFN has commissioned the following three research projects to better understand how homelessness impacts First Nations as well as to identify opportunities to help improve service delivery and coordination to meet the needs of First Nations people experiencing homelessness: a systematic literature review, an environmental scan, and a systems mapping of existing programs and services across Canada.

The AFN is also currently planning a series of initial regional engagement sessions to seek input from First Nations leadership and technicians, along with other participants identified by regional representatives.

The next phase of engagement (at the community level) and an online survey are being developed to seek input from First Nations communities, First Nations governments, service providers, and those directly affected by homelessness. All of the above engagements will help

The AFN is the national organization representing First Nations citizens in Canada.

Follow AFN on Facebook and on Twitter at @AFN_Updates.

For more information please go to: www.afn.ca



ensure that the development of the national *Action Plan for First Nations Homelessness On and Off-Reserve* is First Nations-led and developed in alignment with First Nations' needs, priorities, and realities.

Lastly, the AFN hosted a virtual National First Nations Homelessness Symposium on June 7 and 8, 2021 from 11:00am–4:30pm EDT. This event was the AFN's first symposium on homelessness and provided a unique opportunity for dialogue and learning on strategies to address and ultimately eliminate homelessness for First Nations living both in and away from their communities.

Where do we hope to go in the future?

Research and engagement findings will be used to table a more robust resolution on First Nations homelessness at the AFN's Special Chiefs Assembly in December 2021. Research and engagement outcomes will also be used to inform priorities for ESDC's First Nations distinctions-based *Reaching Home* funding stream, and to begin co-developing the national *Action Plan for First Nations Homelessness On and Off-Reserve*.