



HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE: CMHC ON-RESERVE PROGRAMS AND TECHNICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

OVERVIEW

Despite First Nations opposition, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) made a unilateral decision to change its delivery service and awarded a national contract to a single service provider called OZHI First Nations Professional Services (OZHI), which is to provide progress and physical condition reviews for CMHC's on-reserve programs. OZHI First Nations Professional Services was the successful candidate for a Request for Proposal (RFP) released by the CMHC titled, On-Reserve Technical Services Providers. This RFP closed on December 18, 2015.

This meant that the services provided previously by First Nations, Tribal Councils and Technical Service Providers were no longer required. First Nations expressed concerns with the selected contractor's readiness, responsiveness and capacity to carry out the work in a manner that

meets the required service standards and program deadlines as was previously provided by First Nation Technical Service Providers.

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 28/2017, *Restore Technical Services back to First Nations for CMHC Housing Programs*, passed by the Chiefs-in-Assembly, called for the contract with OZHI to be rescinded and to restore the technical services provided by First Nations, Tribal Councils and First Nations Technical Service Providers.

As a result of the many letters issued by First Nations and their regional organizations and the advocacy work by the AFN, supported by the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure, CMHC is finally responding to First Nations' concerns.

UPDATE

The CMHC asked for a coordinated effort - a regional model that can serve all First Nations in the region. Regional service providers will be expected to have their own internal quality assurance and operational reviews and an important aspect of these proposals is the inclusion of training and capacity building

components. The CMHC has received proposals from Regional First Nations representative organizations based on the CMHC's "Key Expectations for On-Reserve Technical Service Providers" document and the CMHC's Request for Proposal. Both documents serve as guides for the CMHC's outsourcing requirements.

NEXT STEPS

Regions have and are in the process of submitting their proposals according to the CMHC requirements which will meet the needs of First Nations at the same time. Discussion are

ongoing between Regions and the CMHC on details for the proposals.