First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy Implementation Activities
Territorial Acknowledgement

Gratitude to the Mississaugas of Credit Anishinaabeg for hosting us on their Treaty lands, and we acknowledge the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat who share this territory.
OVERVIEW

• Update on national First Nations Housing & related infrastructure issues
• Encourage participants to ask questions & provide feedback
• Inter-regional sharing & inspiration
AFN HOUSING PRIORITIES

• National First Nations Housing Strategy, including data gathering & Memorandum to Cabinet, (57/2018, 87/2017 & 27/2017)
• Action Plan for Homelessness (79/2019)
• Create direct-to-First Nations Infrastructure Canada programs (56/2018)
• Improve Federal spending transparency (80/2019)
• Support Dene Nation control of housing (81/2019)
• Press CMHC obligations regarding OZHI consultants
National First Nations Housing Strategy - Overview

• Complete with Canada the AFN-led
  • Strategy implementation plan &
  • First Nations-led housing data gathering analysis

• Federal Government will adopt a Memorandum to Cabinet (MC) on transformative change of Federal First Nations housing policy:
  • Recognizes & supports First Nations control over housing,
  • Federal Gov’t becomes funder only
  • Success depends on massive new investment
National First Nations Housing & Related Infrastructure Strategy

• The Strategy serves more than one purpose:

• It is one important component of Federal Government’s consideration of a new First Nations housing policy, and

• It also guides the development of First Nations’ regional and local housing strategies,
National First Nations Housing & Related Infrastructure Strategy & Implementation Plan

• Key components:
• First Nations skills & capacity,
• Governance & program delivery models,
• Funding and financing options,
• Related Infrastructure
• Information sessions
• Short, medium & long term expected outcomes
OVERALL EXPECTED OUTCOMES

• First Nations-directed national policy
• First Nations local & regional solutions
• Massive new investments
• Address back-log, crisis & legacy
• Range of choices
• First Nations adequately housed
• Improved health
• Fed. Gov’t not ‘off the hook’
EXPECTED OUTCOMES

• National Policy & Research Centre
  • Centre is operational
  • Structure represents First Nations input
  • Archive of housing information, tools & best practices
  • Network of experts
EXPECTED OUTCOMES

• Governance & Delivery
  • First Nations housing plans & strategies
  • Housing governance systems in place
  • Strong, flexible, culturally appropriate delivery models
  • Partnerships & innovative solutions
  • Management tools & resources
EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Funding & Finance
  - Funded transition plans lead to control
  - Data gathered regularly
  - Innovative, equitable & transparent funding
  - Lending barriers addressed
  - Revenue is generated, more occupant contributions
  - Market Housing Fund accountable to First Nations
  - Lending to First Nations & individuals
  - More housing choices on & off-reserve
  - Multi-jurisdictional processes & collaboration
EXPECTED OUTCOMES

• Skills & Capacity
  • Capacity/skills needed is known
  • Programs address needs & barriers
  • More & better training
  • Workforce critical mass created
  • High skilled workers retained
EXPECTED OUTCOMES

• Partners’ roles clarified
• Expanded & First Nations-controlled homelessness programming
• Dene control their housing
• New builds address disabled needs
• More & continuous information to the people
Housing & Infrastructure Service Transformation

• ISC has started housing control-transfer discussions with some regions

• ISC welcomes discussions with any/all regions & whatever level the First Nation proposes.
TRANSITION TO FIRST NATIONS CARE, CONTROL & MANAGEMENT OF HOUSING & RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE
National First Nations Housing & Related Infrastructure Strategy

Spring 2020: Complete analysis & report on First Nations-developed & led housing data gathering

Spring 2020: Complete the National Housing Strategy Implementation Plan

August 2020 – January/February 2021: Provide input into a Federal Memorandum to Cabinet to authorize transformative change of Federal First Nations housing policy
NATIONAL STRATEGY PROCESS

• Spring 2020: Canvass all regions on structure & role of a National First Nations Housing Policy & Research Centre

• Fall 2020 – Spring 2021: Advocate for the new Federal policy & major investment; Fed. Budget request likely be in the $-billions

• Throughout 2020/21: Events to maintain momentum, share experiences & information & inspire each other
Action Plan for Homelessness

• 1st step - gather data from all regions
• Environmental scan being planned
• National gathering of experts & key people – Spring 2020
• Report & recommendations to Chiefs July 2020 AGA
Create Direct-to-First Nations Infrastructure Canada Programs

• Seek funds for non-housing related infrastructure data gathering exercise
• Develop options for mechanisms for direct Federal infrastructure funding exclusively to First Nations
• Seek capital funds for long term care facilities
• Next Steps: Continued dialogue with Infrastructure Canada
Improve Federal Transparency In Spending & Other Housing Activities

- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation reduced 2019-20 renovation program funding without prior notice to First Nations
- Federal “Deep Dive” on First Nations Housing On-Reserves process developed unilaterally
- CMHC Minister’s mandate letter includes urban housing strategy – no prior notice to AFN
- On-going: pressure CMHC & ISC to consult First Nations prior to making housing program & funding changes & to live up to the Prime Minister’s commitment to transparency
Support Dene Nation Control of Housing

- Dene Nation housing programs very different than southern First Nations
- Dene housing controlled by GNWT Housing Corporation
- Fed. Gov’t offer to discuss greater housing control includes Dene Nation
- AFN supporting Dene Nation
Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIW&G)

- There is one main housing and water-related MMIW&G Final Report Call For Justice, as follows:

- 4.1 We call upon all governments to uphold the social and economic rights of Indigenous women, girls, and 2S/LGBTQQIA people by ensuring that Indigenous Peoples have services and infrastructure that meet their social and economic needs. All governments must immediately ensure that Indigenous Peoples have access to safe housing, clean drinking water, and adequate food."
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Thank You