



SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY

DATE: DECEMBER 7-9, 2021

A S S E M B L É E
E X T R A O R D I N A I R E
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D U 7 A U 9 D É C E M B R E 2 0 2 1

Funding & Financing Federal Fiduciary Obligation to Fund First Nations Housing Estimated at \$60 Billion

DIALOGUE SESSION

DECEMBER 6, 2021

11:00 am – 12:30 pm EST



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ASSEMBLÉE EXTRAORDINAIRE DES CHEFS
DU 7 AU 9 DÉCEMBRE 2021



Welcome

Knowledge Keeper
Roberta Oshkabewisens

Regional Chief Woodhouse
Housing Portfolio Holder
Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure



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DU 7 AU 9 DÉCEMBRE 2021



Final Report: Cost Analysis of Current Housing Gaps and Future Housing Needs in First Nations, Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy 2021

Summary of Findings

Dr. Helaina Gaspard

Institute of Fiscal Studies and Democracy



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Funding & Financing Housing

Federal Fiduciary Obligation to Fund the Cost of Decades of Its Neglect of First Nations Housing Estimated at \$60 Billion

Dan Gaspé
Senior Policy Advisor, Housing



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The Skilled First Nations Citizens Needed for First Nations to Manage & Care for Our Own Housing

AFNQL Capacity Development

Guy Latouche

AFNQL



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Continually Informing and On-going Engagement of First Nations on Control and Changes in Federal Policy

Update: BC First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council



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The Need for a Resolution and Next Steps The AFN Advocacy Strategy and Memorandum to Cabinet

Dan Gaspé
Senior Policy Advisor, Housing



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DRAFT HOUSING RESOLUTION IS IMPORTANT

- Chiefs' support to pass the draft AFN housing resolution is important.
- It sends a message that Chiefs support the \$60 billion investment needed to close the gap.
- First Nations exercising jurisdiction & control over housing won't happen without sustained & sufficient investment.
- \$60 billion...
 - Expected in 2022 Federal Budget
 - Based on historic First Nations-led national housing survey
 - Best data ever on First Nations housing needs



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Draft Special Chiefs Assembly Housing Resolution

- TITLE:** Cost to Address Decades of Federal Housing Neglect
- SUBJECT:** Housing
- MOVED BY:** Chief Lance Haymond, Kebaoek First Nation, Qc.
- SECONDED BY:** Chief R. Donald Maracle, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte First Nation, ON.



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Draft Special Chiefs Assembly Housing Resolution

WHEREAS:

- The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:
 - i. Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
 - ii. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, Indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.



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Draft Special Chiefs Assembly Housing Resolution

- The Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (CCoHI), the First Nations and their regional organizations, in collaboration with Federal partners, have reached a significant milestone by completing the work started several years ago and mandated by several AFN resolutions that provide detailed data on the housing needs and control requirements of First Nations.
- The AFN's foundational housing documents that together describe the First Nations housing needs and the First Nations-led solution to the First Nations housing crisis are the Policy Reform Framework (2017), the 10 Year National First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy (2018) and its Implementation Plan (2020), the Technical Report on the national First Nations housing survey (2018), the Housing Policy and Research Centre Feasibility study (2021) and the First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Needs Technical report (2021) (the cost estimate report).
- The solution to the First Nations housing crisis has three main elements: 1. Canada to conclude agreements with First Nations to assume care, control and management of their own housing consistent with their inherent and Treaty rights and jurisdiction; 2. the Federal Government's fiduciary obligation to provide First Nations the guaranteed and sufficient multi-year funding investments and co-develop expanded financing options; and 3. To co-develop sufficiently funded and First Nations-exclusive Federal housing programs for First Nations that choose not to assume control of their housing.



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Draft Special Chiefs Assembly Housing Resolution

- The Federal Government has taken some but not all steps in transformative change to its First Nations housing policy by giving itself the authority by legislation in 2019 to transfer the control of housing services to First Nations, subject to agreement, and by providing additional housing funds in several Federal Budgets as a down payment toward the pending full funding commitment.
- The AFN commissioned research estimates the cost to close the housing gap in First Nations communities at \$39 billion in 2021 dollars and a further \$21 billion to build homes for 10% of citizens living away to migrate to their home communities.
- There is sufficient data, and therefore there are no excuses for delay, for the Federal Government, in continued partnership with the AFN, to make further transformative changes to its First Nations housing policy and to commit the significant housing funds required.
- The significant progress in determining the housing needs of First Nations nevertheless leaves additional work to address housing pressures not yet fully developed, such as but not limited to, Federal legislation (S3) adding new status Indians, children to be repatriated to First Nations as a result of First Nations child welfare legislation, more clarity on the number of citizens expected to migrate to live on-reserves/in-communities, Federal intentions to develop an urban, rural and northern Indigenous housing strategy and the proposed business plan to establish the National First Nations Housing & Related Infrastructure Policy & Research Centre.



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Draft Special Chiefs Assembly Housing Resolution

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the AFN to advocate that the Federal Government announce no later than in its 2022 Federal Budget a guaranteed 10-year commitment of;

1. \$39 billion to close the gap in First Nations on-community housing and adjusted annually to reflect cost-of-living increases; and

2. \$21 billion to build homes for 10% of First Nations citizens living away to migrate to their home communities; and

• Declare that each First Nation exclusively determines their funding priorities to address the housing crisis, whether it be overcrowding, serviced lots, repairs, population growth or to attract citizens living away to migrate to their home communities.

• Direct the AFN to urge the Federal Government to continue the partnership in housing by co-developing with the AFN a Memorandum to Cabinet, or similar mechanism, leading to a detailed Federal First Nations housing policy that addresses elements contained in AFN's foundational housing documents.



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Draft Special Chiefs Assembly Housing Resolution

- Direct the AFN to support each region's and First Nation's distinct approach to closing the housing gap.
- Direct the AFN, with the collaboration of the regions, to continue to co-develop with Canada the research into the additional housing pressures and needs not yet fully developed and to report findings to the Chiefs-in-Assembly to seek further direction thereto.
- Commend the First Nations elders, wisdom keepers, leaders, staff, volunteers, citizens and domestic and international non-First Nations partners for their contributions and hard work without which this significant milestone in the history of First Nations housing would not have been realized.



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Advocacy Strategy

Objectives

- Pressure appropriate Ministers for \$60B PBS-ask & for MC or alternative
- Prepare and support key spokespeople
- Align with National Chief 100-day plan

Time frame

- Intense activity Fall 2021/Winter 2022
- Key result date – 2022 Federal Budget announcement

AFN Champions

- National Chief & Executive
- Housing Portfolio Holder - Executive member
- Chiefs Committee on Housing & Infrastructure Co-Chairs
- Chiefs



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Advocacy Strategy

Key Targets (Federal Decision-makers)

- Convene meetings, send letters, emails & materials to:
 - Key MPs & Senators (First Nations MPs, influential & with large First Nations riding population)
 - Minister of Finance (MoF) and Deputy Prime Minister
 - Other key ministers – ISC, CMHC
 - Central agencies (Finance, Privy Council Office, Treasury Board)
 - ISC & CMHC senior & middle management

Chiefs' Role

- Support Special Chiefs Assembly resolution to confirm support of \$60 billion investment needed
- Volunteer for meetings with strategically selected Members of Parliament (MPs) & Senators
- Meet with your local MP



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Closing Prayer Adjournment

**Miigwetch
Nia:wen
Thank You**