Learn more about NICHI

and a National Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy @nichi.ca

Adequate housing is a human right, it’s essential in order to thrive.

A right to culture. A right to health. A right to security. A right to justice. Barriers to education, employment, health care and cultural livelihood are rooted in, housing insecurity created by colonial land dispossession. With support services, Indigenous People are breaking cycles of poverty.

Home—a place of safety, love, health, security,

happiness, and lasting bonds.

Well over 80 per cent of Indigenous, Inuit and Métis People do not live on reserve in their home communities, rather in urban,\* rural and northern (URN) centres. They frequently experience housing insecurity that can include being homeless, precariously housed, seeking shelters and supports, and being at risk of violent situations. Causes can be lack of affordable, safe and appropriate housing, but also being forced to live in unsuitable dwellings that have infestations, poor water and/or air quality, and are in unsafe neighbourhoods. Unstable housing can lead to frequent moves, inaccessibility for family members with disabilities or those fleeing violence.

Articles 21 and 23 of the UN Declaration on the

Rights of Indigenous Peoples State:

Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.

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 programs affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programs through their own institutions.

For Indigenous By Indigenous

Societal systemic and wrap around services are essential to successful housing outcomes. These are best delivered by those with lived experiences. For Indigenous By Indigenous. NICHI exists to uphold and advance housing as a human right for all Indigenous Peoples living in urban, rural and northern communities from coast-to-coast-to-coast. NICHI is built on a principle of cooperation and coordination of expertise amongst members, partners, and stakeholders committed to ensuring that no Indigenous, Inuit or Métis person gets left behind because of where they live. It will convene Indigenous-led housing providers, and fill a gap as a national coordinating mechanism and deliver immediate funding for urgent, unmet housing projects. NICHI will harness the extensive Indigenous housing expertise to co-design and co-deliver a national URN housing strategy, distribute resources to Indigenous housing projects and support wrap-around services. Its governance, management and operational structures utilize strengths of Indigenous service organizations as collaborators. Key to NICHI’s National URN Strategy will be the creation of a For Indigenous By Indigenous (FIBI) National Housing Centre**.**

Urgent need

Disproportionately high numbers of Indigenous People in urban,\* rural and northern centres experience housing insecurity that can include being homeless, precariously housed, accessing shelters and supports, and being at risk of violent situations. To address this urgent need, Budget 2022 invested $300 million starting in 2022-2023 to co-develop and launch an Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy. This includes $281.5 million to be delivered by NICHI for urgent, unmet housing projects in urban, rural and northern areas.

What next?

NICHI will mobilize funding to those most in need regardless of size or region. It will create a neutral selection committee of non-housing providers, followed by a process for interested parties to submit an expression of interest. NICHI hopes to have vetting process and selection complete by late summer.

80%+ the percentage of the Indigenous population in Canada living away from Indigenous-governed territories represent a wide range of backgrounds: First Nations, Métis, Inuit, Non Status, Status unknown, Self-identified.

801,045

Indigenous people living in large urban centres.

3 to 1

Indigenous to non-Indigenous people likely to live in a dwelling in need of major repairs.

2.5x

likelihood Indigenous women will be victims of violence than non-Indigenous women.

17.1 vs 9.4%

Indigenous people living in overcrowded housing compared to non-Indigenous population. 1,000s

Indigenous youth disconnected from their communities on a yearly basis with no access to existing funding.

24%

Percentage of Indigenous people living in a low-income household in an urban area.

$6b

The yearly amount of money required to address the assessed need.

\*Based on 2021 census data

Critical areas of urgent and un-met housing needs.

At this moment at least 100 Indigenous-led service providers across the country are ready to deliver housing for those who are most vulnerable. However, these projects are struggling to complete their work successfully due to lack of appropriate investment and rising housing costs. If these projects fail because they don’t have enough resources for completion, the significant unmet need will only grow.

NICHI will focus on:

1. Ensuring equitable distribution of funds to Indigenous households in core housing need.

2. Ensuring sustainability of existing units that are operated and maintained by Indigenous housing providers and

service agencies.

3. Building subsidized Indigenous-owned and operated housing units over the next 10 years.

4. Creating supportive housing units for individuals as well as families with intensive support needs.

5. Providing rent/affordability assistance to Indigenous households who have access to good market housing but cannot afford their rent or ownership housing costs.

6. Establishing a support plan that creates pathways providing Indigenous people with different options on the housing continuum, including access to affordable homeownership.

7. Providing funding to embed culturally appropriate wraparound services and enable cultural recognition within housing to support the success of individuals and families.