

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Overwhelming Response to Call for Expressions of Need for Indigenous Housing Funding Support Across Canada

February 1, 2024 – [National Indigenous Collaborative Housing Inc. \(NICHl\)](https://nichi.ca/), a leading advocate for Indigenous housing rights, is thrilled to announce an unprecedented response to its recent call for expressions of need for Indigenous housing funding support across Canada. The overwhelming number of submissions received underscores the urgency to address the critical need for safe and affordable urban, rural, and northern Indigenous housing projects for Indigenous people across Canada.

NICHl launched the call for expressions of need on November 24, 2023 with the support of the Canadian Housing and Transformation Centre (CHTC), who provided the platform for the application portal. The purpose of this initiative was to gather comprehensive data on the housing challenges faced by Indigenous communities nationwide and to identify priority areas for funding support.

The response to the call has been nothing short of remarkable. Indigenous communities from coast to coast to coast have passionately shared their stories, experiences, and pressing housing needs. The outpouring of submissions highlights the critical need for immediate action to address the inadequate housing conditions faced by many Indigenous families and individuals.

"We are deeply moved by the overwhelming response to our call for expressions of need," said Jocelyn W. Formsma, Board Chair at NICHl. "The sheer number of submissions received underscores the urgency of the housing crisis faced by Indigenous communities and the need for increased support. It is clear that there is a pressing need for collaborative efforts to address this issue and provide safe, affordable, and sustainable housing for all urban, rural, and northern Indigenous peoples."

NICHl established a process that addresses the urgent and unmet need for a supportive and holistic approach to housing for Indigenous people that are living away from their traditional communities in urban, rural, and northern areas of Canada.

- ~ October 30, 2023, NICHl held its first webinar introducing NICHl and the Funding Allocation process.
- ~ November 16, 2023, NICHl held a second webinar giving more detail for the call-out process and a walk through of the application form, required information and important dates.
- ~ November 24, 2023, the Expressions of Need portal opened.
- ~ January 12, 2024 the Expressions of Need portal closed.
- ~ A total of 444 applications were submitted. Within these NICHl saw 245 Capital funding stream applications and 199 Capacity & Organizational Development funding stream applications.
- ~ The overwhelming response to the Expressions of Need call-out resulted in over \$2 billion dollars in need.

The submissions received through the call for expressions of need will serve as a vital resource in advocating for increased funding and policy changes at the local, provincial, and federal levels. The data collected will help shape evidence-based strategies and initiatives to address the unique housing challenges faced by Indigenous communities and work towards long-term solutions.

NICHl remains committed to amplifying the voices of Indigenous communities, advocating for their rights to safe and adequate housing, and working towards reconciliation through meaningful action.

"The housing crisis in Canada is reaching its breaking point and unsurprisingly, leaving Indigenous people behind with some of the highest statistics for experiences of homelessness. Beyond the dire lack of housing, Indigenous Peoples continue to experience intergenerational poverty and homelessness at disproportionate rates compared to their non-Indigenous counterparts." AHMA Article – If our voices were heard, by Christina Rose Gervais, December 2024.

The overwhelming response to the call for expressions of need further strengthens our resolve to continue fighting for equitable access to housing for all urban, rural, and northern Indigenous peoples.

About NICHl:

The National Indigenous Collaborative Housing Inc. (NICHl) 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. Visit nichi.ca for more information.



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