



National Indigenous  
Collaborative Housing Inc.

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## **NICHI Expands National Reach and Advances Indigenous-Led Housing Priorities for 2026**

**Ottawa, ON, March 5, 2026** - The National Indigenous Collaborative Housing Inc. (NICHI) reaffirmed its commitment to advancing Indigenous-led housing solutions across Canada during its Annual Members Update on March 3, highlighting significant organizational growth, strong project delivery outcomes, and a focused national agenda for 2026.

Held virtually, the update began after an opening prayer and welcoming song from Elder Irene Compton. NICHI Board Chair Jocelyn Formsma welcomed members, Elders, partners, and supporters. John Gordon, NICHI CEO, then addressed the members, noting the organization's rapid evolution since its founding less than three years ago.

"Indigenous housing providers came together to form NICHI in response to a nationwide housing crisis affecting our people," said Gordon. "What began as a grassroots initiative has quickly grown into an Indigenous-led national institution advancing housing solutions at scale across urban, rural, and northern communities."

NICHI now serves a network of 120 member organizations nationwide, including 26 that joined over the past year, strengthening coordinated national advocacy for Indigenous housing providers.

NICHI reported continued progress in delivering housing investments directly to communities. Over the past year, the organization strengthened governance and accountability systems, enabling 98 percent of funding to flow directly to housing projects, while maintaining administrative costs at just 2 percent. Currently, NICHI has \$281.5 million committed to 77 housing projects.

"The strength of our governance ensures funding intended for Indigenous housing reaches communities directly," Gordon said. "Our role is to carry forward the voices and priorities of our members and ensure governments listen."

Demand for Indigenous housing continues to far exceed available resources, with more than \$2 billion in project requests submitted through NICHI's original funding call.

NICHI emphasized that evolving domestic and global economic conditions continue to influence Canada's housing environment. Despite political and economic uncertainty, the organization confirmed its priorities remain grounded in member-identified needs and the urgent realities facing Indigenous peoples living in urban, rural, and northern communities. NICHI continues engagement with all federal political parties and officials to advocate for sustained investment and timely housing decisions.

NICHI is actively participating in discussions related to emerging federal housing initiatives, including Build Canada Homes and the forthcoming Canada Rental Protection Fund, a nearly \$1.5-billion program aimed at preserving long-term rental affordability. The organization is working alongside sector partners to ensure Indigenous housing providers are meaningfully included, including advocating for dedicated Indigenous participation within new funding streams. While progress is underway, NICHI noted that long-term Indigenous housing outcomes cannot depend solely on government program timelines.

To strengthen long-term sustainability, NICHI announced ongoing work to establish a national charity focused on Indigenous housing. The initiative aims to reduce reliance on federal transfer payments while supporting Indigenous-led solutions aligned with NICHI's "For Indigenous, By Indigenous" mandate.

A central priority for 2026 is the development of a NICHI-led Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy, an approach designed to ensure housing policy reflects lived realities across communities often excluded from existing frameworks.

"This work is not about government defining the direction," said Gordon. "It is about Indigenous housing providers steering the conversation. Local communities know what local communities need." NICHI will launch a national member survey following the Annual Members Update, followed by in-person engagement sessions beginning in St. John's in April.

NICHI also announced continued investments in communications and policy capacity, including expanded Member Portal resources, strengthened policy briefings and research summaries, enhanced website performance and accessibility, and ongoing reporting from engagement and advocacy events. These tools aim to ensure members remain informed, connected, and supported in advancing Indigenous housing solutions locally and nationally.

NICHI confirmed several key events for the year ahead:

- April 23, 2026 – Annual Membership Engagement Session, St. John’s, NL
- September 28, 2026 – NICHI Connects: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Indigenous Housing Action Day, Ottawa, ON
- September 29, 2026 – NICHI's 2026 Annual General Meeting and Awards Gala, Ottawa, ON
- November 22–25, 2026 – NICHI's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Indigenous Housing Capacity Building Event, Winnipeg, MB

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*The National Indigenous Collaborative Housing Inc. (NICHI) is the national voice for Indigenous housing and service providers. Guided by a “For Indigenous, By Indigenous” approach, NICHI advances housing solutions that are community-driven, culturally grounded, and responsive to the needs of Indigenous peoples living in urban, rural, and northern communities across Canada.*