



[The Canadian Housing and Renewal Association](#)

**ADDRESSING A HISTORIC WRONG: CREATION OF A DISTINCT URBAN AND
RURAL INDIGENOUS HOUSING STRATEGY**

October 2016

There is no question that Canada's urban and rural Indigenous populations face unique housing challenges. Homelessness, core housing need, housing discrimination, and lack of affordable supply are all higher among urban and rural Indigenous communities compared to non-Indigenous. Yet, the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report in 2015, and the openness being expressed by the federal government to renew a nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership, has created an opportunity to seriously address the pressing housing related needs facing Canada's urban and rural Indigenous populations.

As a fundamental component of a National Housing Strategy, CHRA and its Aboriginal Caucus are calling for the creation of a distinct Indigenous Housing Strategy. This strategy would be based on the following principles and recommendations:

- *Provide a distinct and proportional allocation of future housing funding to urban/rural Indigenous housing:* Future federally funded capital housing programs, such as programs to expand existing housing stock or renew/rehabilitate existing stock, should have a distinct allocation funding formula for urban/rural Indigenous providers commensurate with their share of housing demand and need.
- *Create a permanent Urban/Rural Indigenous Housing Trust:* Because of the disproportionate challenges facing urban/rural Indigenous housing providers, the CHRA Aboriginal Caucus is endorsing the recommendation made in the 2009 National Aboriginal Housing Association report to create a permanent, standalone Off-Reserve Indigenous Housing Trust that would provide dedicated funding for capital and operational needs.
- *Increase funding for urban/rural Indigenous support service organizations:* Because of the unique cultural, health, educational, and social needs of the urban/rural Indigenous population, particularly those individuals coming from an on-reserve setting, the CHRA Aboriginal Caucus is recommending that the federal government increase funding to urban/rural Indigenous service organizations so that greater social and other services can be made available to the urban/rural Indigenous population.
- *Consult with Indigenous representatives in advance of future Housing Ministers meetings:* In advance of any future Ministerial Housing meetings, representatives of the urban/rural Indigenous housing sector need to be consulted on the contents of the meeting, and preferably be invited to participate. Such forms of participation should extend to meetings of senior housing officials as well.
- *Respect the Daniels decision in future housing policy:* The federal government needs to respect the April 14, 2016 Supreme Court decision taken in the Daniels case that confirmed the federal government's fiduciary responsibilities towards Metis and non-status Indians, particularly as it relates to housing.
- *Dedicate a seat on the CMHC Board of Directors for an Indigenous representative:* Given the key importance of CMHC in identifying and implementing national housing policy, the CHRA

Aboriginal Caucus is recommending that a seat on the CMHC Board of Directors be dedicated to an off-reserve Indigenous representative. Discussions on a process to select a candidate for this seat should be held with the CHRA Aboriginal Caucus and other key stakeholders.

- *Compliment implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report:* The 2015 Truth and Reconciliation report was a landmark report that aimed to heal longstanding grievances with Canada’s Indigenous population. The report contained 94 Calls to Action intended to “redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation”. The recommendations contained in this section, and the implementation of the National Housing Strategy overall, should complement and tie in to the Calls to Action contained in the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s final report.



75 Albert Street, Suite 902
Ottawa, ON, K1P 5E7

📞 (613) 594-3007
📠 (613) 594-9596

www.chra-achru.ca
info@chra-achru.ca

 @CHRA_ACHRU