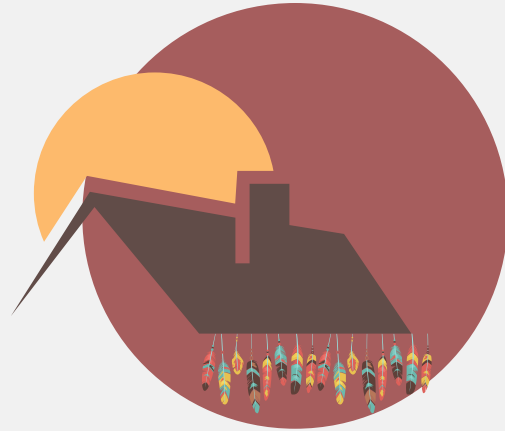




BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS



# BCAFN HOUSING FORUM

**OCTOBER 25 - 26, 2023**

## Conference Program

Prince George Civic Centre

*Traditional Territories of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation*



## MESSAGE FROM REGIONAL CHIEF TERRY TEEGEE



I extend my gratitude to participants for your interest in joining the BCAFN Housing Forum and with to thank Lheidli T'enneh for allowing us to host this important event on their territories. Over the next two days, we will discuss critical issues surrounding First Nations housing insecurity and homelessness, including housing on and off reserve, the impacts of the climate emergency and upholding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. We will also provide space for First Nations to inform the mandate, scope and framework of the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council

During the forum, we will host various Chiefs, leaders and experts to discuss key issues, community-led solutions and recommendations on how to move forward at the community, regional, and national level. First Nations face complex and disproportionate challenges in addressing these issues due to historic and ongoing racism, perpetuated by systemic barriers, including inadequate funding. With the recent provincial and federal adoption of the UN Declaration, governments at all levels must work with First Nations to uphold our inherent right to sufficient, culturally appropriate, and climate-resilient housing.

Collaborative efforts are vital to developing policies and initiatives addressing immediate concerns and working towards sustainable, long-term solutions. By incorporating the voices and perspectives of First Nations rights holders in BC, we can develop strategies and advocate for policy and legislative changes that are rooted in upholding the UN Declaration.

I look forward to listening to the dialogue over the next two days and sharing a What We Heard report with participants over the next month to highlight the takeaways from these important discussions.

Mussi,

Regional Chief Terry Teegee

**BCAFN HOUSING FORUM**





# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Cultural Supports and Wellness

BCAFN is honoured to have the Indian Residential School Survivors' Society (IRSSS) provide cultural supports during the Housing Forum. You can find the IRSSS team in the foyer.

To learn more about the IRSSS, please go to:  
<https://www.irsss.ca/>

## Naloxone Training

Positive Living North (PLN) has graciously offered Naloxone training for any interested participants. They have a booth in the main foyer and are pleased to offer Naloxone training every hour during the BCAFN Housing Forum.

For more information about PLN, please go to:  
<https://www.positivelivingnorth.org/>

## Information Booths

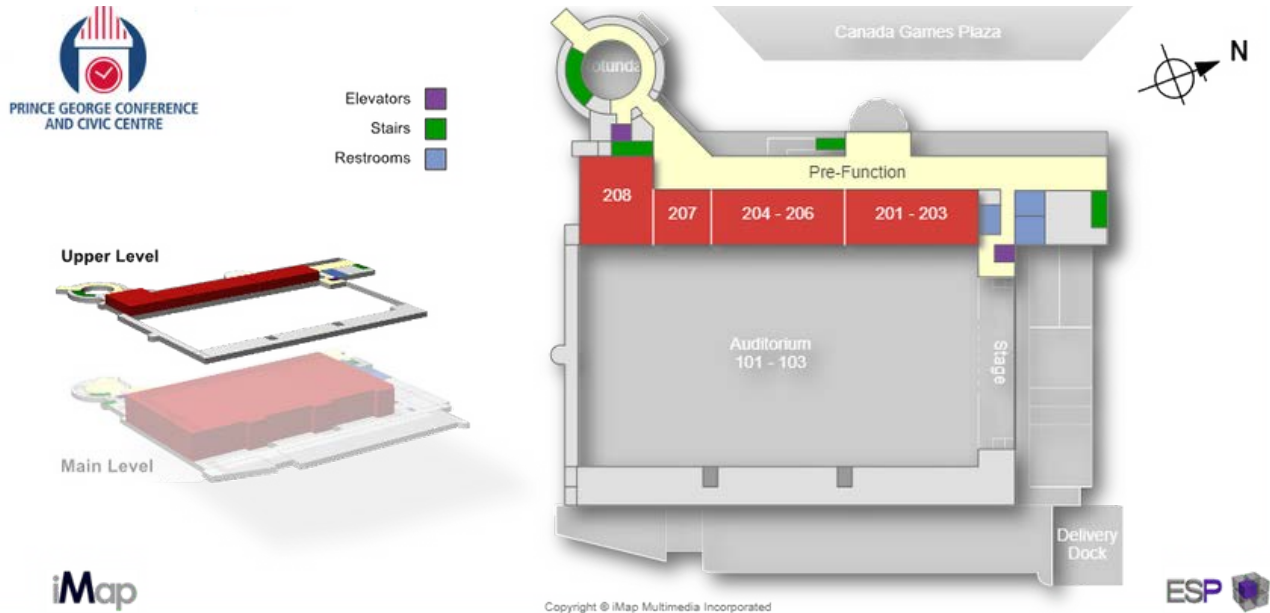
Please check out the information booths during the breaks in the foyer including:

- First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council
- First Nations Housing Managers Association
- BC Housing
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Indian Residential School Survivors' Society
- Positive Living North





## Civic Centre Map

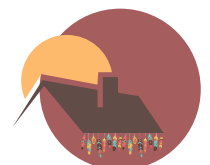


The BCAFN Housing Forum will be hosted in the following rooms at the Prince George Civic Centre:

**Auditorium 103** (Main Floor) - Panel Discussions, Keynote Speakers + Opening and Closing

**Room 204 - 206** - First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council Engagements (First Nations-only)

**Room 201 - 203** - Breakout Discussions





# FACILITATORS

## Kyle Alec

Kyle is from the Syilx (Okanagan) Nation and Secwepemc (Shuswap) Nation and is a member of the Penticton Indian Band in Southern British Columbia. Kyle also served for a short time on council for the Penticton Indian Band, Kyle grew up in the Indigenous planning world and specializes in facilitating enowkinwixw process for decision-making and planning. He has experience working through strategy sessions in governance and community planning, facilitation and co-facilitation of workshops dealing with multigenerational trauma, healing, goal-setting and visioning, and event coordination. Kyle is currently BCAFN's elected Youth Representative.



## Taylor Behn-Tsakoza

Taylor is a Dene cis woman from Fort Nelson First Nation in BC Treaty 8 Territory. Having been guided by her grandparents, mother and mentors, Taylor is a language learner in the Dene K'e dialect, and a beginner in all traditional activities such as beading, harvesting animals and moosehide tanning. Utilizing her education and traditional teachings combined with her passion for working with Indigenous youth and communities. Taylor currently works in the fields of Clean Energy and Recreation. Dedicated to lifting youth voices up and addressing the need for events that create connection to culture and community, Taylor is the former Youth Representative for the BC Assembly of First Nations. Her special interests are in life promotion, land-based wellness and Indigenous governance.





# AGENDA

OCTOBER 25, 2023

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

TERRITORIAL WELCOME + CONTEXT SETTING

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

HEALTH BREAK

11:00 AM - 11:45 AM

CHAIRPERSON KHEL SILEM, SQUAMISH NATION

*Addressing Housing Needs: The Squamish Nation Lessons on Market & Non-Market Housing Development*

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

LUNCH BREAK AND COMEDY SPECIAL W/  
DAKOTA RAY HEBERT

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

CONCURRENT DIALOGUE SESSIONS

MAIN ROOM (103)

**DIALOGUE 1: HOUSING INSECURITY AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS** PANEL DISCUSSION WITH ANDREA REIMER, PATRICK MICHELL, KANAKA BAR INDIAN BAND, AND CHIEF ARNOLD LAMPREAU, SHACKAN INDIAN BAND

ROOM 204

**DIALOGUE 2: A FIRST NATIONS-LED HOUSING AUTHORITY: SERVICES** (TIER 1 ENGAGEMENT) - FIRST NATIONS HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

ROOM 201

**DIALOGUE 3: OVERVIEW OF THE BC FIRST NATIONS HOUSING MANAGERS ASSOCIATION** - WITH LORY O'BERST, FNHIC

2:30 PM - 2:50 PM

HEALTH BREAK

2:50 PM - 4:25 PM

CONCURRENT DIALOGUE SESSIONS

MAIN ROOM (103)

**DIALOGUE 1: AFN PRESENTATION ON CLOSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE GAP + FUNDING PANEL WITH FEDERAL & PROVINCIAL PARTNERS** WITH BC HOUSING, CANADA MORTGAGE & HOUSING CORPORATION AND INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA

ROOM 204

**DIALOGUE 2: A FIRST NATIONS-LED HOUSING AUTHORITY: GOVERNANCE** (TIER 1 ENGAGEMENT) - FIRST NATIONS HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

ROOM 201

**DIALOGUE 3: HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS AND UPHOLDING THE HUMAN RIGHT TO HOUSING** - WITH THE OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING ADVOCATE & DR. JOE HERMER

4:30 PM

MAIN ROOM (103)

WRAP UP & CLOSING PRAYER

BCAFN HOUSING FORUM





# AGENDA

OCTOBER 26, 2023

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

BREAKFAST

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM

MAIN ROOM (103)

TERRITORIAL WELCOME  
DAY 1 RECAP + OVERVIEW OF DAY 2

9:45 AM - 10:10 AM

HONOURABLE MINISTER RAVI KAHLON

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10:10 AM - 10:30 AM

HEALTH BREAK

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10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

CONCURRENT DIALOGUE SESSIONS

MAIN ROOM (103)

**DIALOGUE 1: URBAN AND RURAL YOUTH PERSPECTIVES ON THE HOUSING CRISIS PANEL**  
WITH KATISHA PAUL - LIL'WAT FIRST NATION, MATTHEW NORRIS - PRESIDENT OF THE  
URBAN NATIVE YOUTH ASSOCIATION, & DAYLU DENA COUNCIL YOUTH MEMBER

ROOM 204

**DIALOGUE 2: A FIRST NATIONS-LED HOUSING AUTHORITY: TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY**  
(TIER 1 ENGAGEMENT) - FIRST NATIONS HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

ROOM 201

**DIALOGUE 3: FIRST NATIONS-LED CLIMATE RESILIENT HOUSING PROJECTS** WITH  
PATRICK MICHELL - KANAKA BAR INDIAN BAND, LEONA HUMCHITT, HEILTSUK NATION,  
AND NICOLA PROKROP, TECHNICAL SAFETY BC

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12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

LUNCH BREAK - PERFORMANCE BY IVAN PAQUETTE

1:00 PM - 1:15 PM

MAIN ROOM (103)

REMARKS FROM MARIE-JOSÉE HOULE - FEDERAL  
HOUSING ADVOCATE

1:15 PM - 2:25 PM

MAIN ROOM (103)

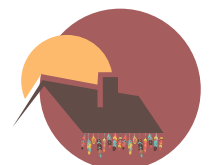
**CHIEFS & LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE: UN DECLARATION AND  
THE RIGHT TO HOUSING** WITH CHIEF PRISCILLA MUELLER, SAIK'UZ  
FIRST NATION, REGIONAL CHIEF TERRY TEEGEE, CHIEF DAN  
MANUEL, UPPER NICOLA INDIAN BAND & FRAN HUNT- JINNOUCHI,  
ABORIGINAL COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

2:25 PM - 3:00 PM

MAIN ROOM (103)

WRAP UP, DRUM SONG & CLOSING PRAYER

BCAFN HOUSING FORUM







# AGENDA PROGRAM

8:00 - 9:00 AM

## BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

9:00 - 9:45 AM

## TERRITORIAL WELCOME + DRUM SONG

*BCAFN acknowledges the unceded, unsundered and continually occupied territories of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, whose lands the BCAFN Housing Forum is hosted on.*

Territorial welcome provided by **Lheidli T'enneh Elder Patricia Seymour**.



Traditional drum song performed by the **UHNBC Drummers** who form during the pandemic when a group of drummers gathered for 47 consecutive days outside of the UHNBC hospital to support and acknowledge the frontline workers during the height of the pandemic. The group gathered every Monday outside the hospital to show their support and continue supporting community events in Prince George.



### **Mayor Simon Yu - City of Prince George**

At the age of 15, Mayor Yu immigrated to Prince George. Yu is a UBC graduate in Engineering, a business owner, a property developer, a teacher, and a community builder. Mayor Yu is serving his first time after his successful election in 2022.

9:45 - 10:30 AM

## OPENING REMARKS + CONTEXT SETTING

### **Deputy Chief Harlan Schilling - Daylu Dena Council**

Harlan Schilling was raised in his home community of Lower Post, BC, where he has had the honor to serve the Daylu Dena community as a Councilor from 2017 - 2020, and now serves as Deputy Chief. Before his political career, Harlan served in the Canadian Armed Forces as a combat engineer for seven years. Harlan has served on the BCAFN Board of Directors and is now honored to be the recently appointed Chief Executive Officer for the newly launched BC First Nations Center of Excellence.



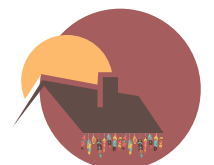
### **Michael Sadler - Executive Director, FNHC**

Michael Sadler is a member of the Kispiox First Nation, part of the Gitksan Nation near Hazelton, BC. Michael is currently the Executive Director of the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council and previously was the Director of Indigenous Relations at BC Housing. He holds a Masters in Education and has been an instructor in various post-secondary institutions in the areas of teaching development and Indigenous Social Issues. He has worked as a CEO, Executive Director, and Director in regional and provincial organizations in the areas of Indigenous education, employment and training, social development, health and housing.



10:30 - 11:00 AM

## HEALTH BREAK







11:00 - 11:45 AM

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER: CHAIRPERSON KHELSELEM, SQUAMISH NATION

*ADDRESSING HOUSING NEEDS: THE SQUAMISH NATION LESSONS ON  
MARKET & NON-MARKET HOUSING DEVELOPMENT*



Khelsilem is a prominent Indigenous leader and current Chairperson of the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation). First elected to Council in 2017, Chairperson Khelsilem was an official Spokesperson and active in leading work on various projects and initiatives including developing a not-for-profit housing society and the Seńákw development, the largest Indigenous housing development in Canadian history. Chairperson Khelsilem's lifelong work has focused on progressive social change, including climate justice, social democracy and gender equity. Chairperson Khelsilem is a fluent speaker of Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh sníchim (language) and prior to serving the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), he founded a program at Simon Fraser University to help train a new generation of Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh sníchim (language) speakers.

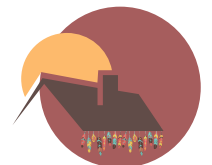
11:45 - 1:00 PM

## LUNCH COMEDY SPECIAL WITH DAKOTA RAY HEBERT

Dakota Ray is an actor/comedian/writer on the rise. She was born and raised in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, and is a member of English River First Nation. On the small screen, Dakota co-stars in the CTV comedy **SHELVED** (now available on Crave) about a handful of smart and quirky characters who work at and inhabit a small, local library. She also co-hosts the informative and entertaining APTN series **CRAZY LIKE A LYNX**, alongside Indigenous comedian Don Kelly. Additionally, you can see Dakota on this season's **RUN THE BURBS** on CBC, as well as on **ROAST BATTLE CANADA** on Crave.

Dakota is also an accomplished stand-up comedian. She has performed across Canada, the US and Mexico. She has performed at the first Arctic Comedy Festival in Iqaluit and the first Drew McLean Comedy Festival in Kamloops, the Winnipeg Comedy Festival, and sold out her headlining run at Just For Laughs Toronto. Dakota can be seen on JFL/CBC's television show **COMEDY NIGHT WITH RICK MERCER**. Her first comedy album, "I'll Give You An Indian Act" is out and available for purchase, and can be streamed on all platforms. She is currently working on her second album **TRAILER TREASURE**, which she toured west this winter; she's working on an eastern tour. Dakota also just wrapped her performance at **JUST FOR LAUGHS MONTREAL** as part of New Faces: Canada.

Always in demand, Dakota has several television shows in development, writing, co-writing and consulting on. The contracts she can talk about are CTV's **SHELVED** and CBC's **ZARQA**. In theatres, Dakota stars in the fantastic feature film, **RUN WOMAN RUN**, produced by Big Soul Productions, and written and directed by Zoe Hopkins. Her outstanding performance won her the Best Actress Award at the 2021 American Indian Film Festival. It opened wide in theatres March 2022 and is currently streaming on Crave and CBC Gem. Be sure to follow this Dene busybody on Facebook, Insta, and Twitter. She's up to her beaded earrings in work, and loves to share what she's up to!



**BCAFN HOUSING FORUM**



1:00 - 2:30 PM

ROOM 103

## CONCURRENT DIALOGUE SESSIONS

### *HOUSING INSECURITY AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS PANEL*

*Moderated by Kyle Alec*

Over the past five years, First Nations communities in BC have endured unprecedented climate emergencies, including fires, floods, and drought. The purpose of this discussion is to share experiences and explore innovative solutions to inform policy, inspire collaborative strategies, and develop a collective roadmap for addressing these pressing issues in a holistic and sustainable manner. The panel will be opened by former Chief Patrick Michell, who will share his personal experience in the wake of the fires that decimated his home and parts of his community in 2021.

#### **Panellists**



#### ***Patrick Michell, Kanaka Bar Indian Band***

Patrick Michell is a Retired Chief of Kanaka Bar Indian Band and resident of Lytton, BC. Patrick has an Administrative Management diploma from Douglas College, and a Bachelor of Law. After working in Vancouver with DFO and INAC, Patrick articulated with the Ministry of Attorney General, and Richards Buell Sutton, before being called to the Bar in 1997.



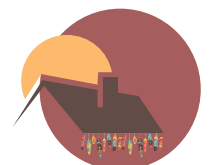
#### ***Chief Arnold Lampreau, Shackan Indian Band***

Hello, my name is Arnie Lampreau (Swakum). My mother is the late Sara F. Swakum and she was living with Stanley Joe in the late 60's and that is how I came to be residing in Shackan, or 14 Mile Ranch. I have a sister, Connie Swakum and a brother Greg Joe. Bobby Joe and Joan Saddleman are also siblings of mine from Stanley Joe.



#### ***Andrea Reimer, Adjunct Professor, UBC***

Former three-term Vancouver Councillor & Metro Vancouver Director, one-time school trustee and former National Green Municipal Fund Council member. Awarded a Loeb Fellowship at Harvard's Graduate School of Design in recognition of urban policy achievements. Currently teaching about how power works in practice at UBC and SFU and consulting with local governments, First Nations, non-profits and mission driven local businesses prepared to act with courage on bold policy. Andrea recently launched She They Us, a podcast about making room in housing for women and gender-diverse people through the Pan-Canadian Voice for Women's Housing.





1:00 - 2:30 PM

ROOM 204

## CONCURRENT DIALOGUE SESSIONS

### FIRST NATIONS HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL TIER 1 ENGAGEMENT (FIRST NATIONS-ONLY) - SERVICE DELIVERY

During this engagement session, FNHIC staff will be sharing their proposed Service Delivery framework including Regional Service Delivery Hubs across BC that seeks to meet the unique needs of First Nations. Additional services provided will include the First Nations Housing Managers Association and an Asset Management pilot project that includes the development of new housing, accessing funding, as well as tenant relations, rental regimes, minor maintenance, maintenance worker training and housing manager training.

#### Meet the FNHIC Staff

##### **Doug Harris - Regional Housing Hub Coordinator**



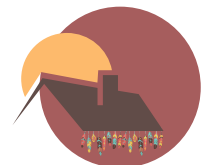
My name is Doug Harris, traditional name is Tulxwelum. I am a proud member of the Stz'uminus nation. I live with my wife and 3 children in the beautiful Stz'uminus territory, Thuq'min. I am honoured to be working for FNHIC-BC and will be serving the South Island and Mainland as your Regional Engagement Coordinator. My goal is to be a positive link between the nations I work with and the Housing and Infrastructure Council of B.C. I look forward to creating meaningful connections and relationships while working together as one – nutsumaat.

##### **Marilyn Johnny - Regional Housing Hub Coordinator**



Marilyn is Kwakiutl, her Kwakiutl name is 'Mal'malekalas, from the Kwakiutl First Nation from the village of Fort Rupert on the Northern tip of Vancouver Island. In 2017 Marilyn graduated with a First Nation Housing Manager Certificate from Vancouver Island University. She has a very strong background, knowledge, education, and experience in delivery of both on/off reserve housing programs offered Provincial/Federal beginning in 1994.

Marilyn joined FNHIC-BC as a Regional Engagement Coordinator in 2020 during the Phase 3 Engagement with First Nations in BC in creating the new First Nation Housing and Infrastructure Authority. In 2022 Marilyn is thrilled to continue as a Regional Housing Hub Coordinator (RHHC) with the amazing team at FNHIC. She continues building relationships/partnerships with all First Nations in the following regions, Vancouver Island, Vancouver Coastal, North, Northeast/Eastern. The First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Council (FNHIC) is creating a First Nations-led Housing and Infrastructure Organization in British Columbia for First Nations 'based on First Nations' traditional values, principles, and governance practices. Marilyn is an avid soccer player, honoraria member of NIFA, and is a volunteer committee member on the Aboriginal Soccer Committee at ISPARC,





1:00 - 2:30 PM

ROOM 201

## CONCURRENT DIALOGUE SESSIONS

### *AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FIRST NATIONS HOUSING MANAGERS ASSOCIATION*

For the past several years, the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council (FNHIC) has been embarking on a lengthy engagement process with the First Nations across British Columbia. Through this process, First Nations have echoed the need for a BC-based Housing Managers Association.

The BC First Nations Housing Managers Association seeks to provide mentorship, professional development opportunities, and access to funding and operational resources to support a successful, healthy community while appreciating the cultural diversity of communities throughout the province.

FNHIC is excited to offer this association free of charge to all housing workers in First Nations across British Columbia. This dialogue session explores the association's roots, how it will run and what it will offer. Time permitting there will be questions and discussion following the presentation.

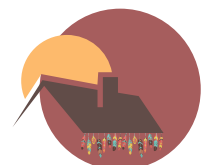
#### ***Dialogue Session hosted by Lory Oberst, FNHIC***

Lori comes from a strong background of administration and management and holds a First Nations Housing Manager Certificate from Vancouver Island University and is a Certified Aboriginal Professional Administrator through the AFOA. Prior to joining FNHIC-BC she worked with for Skwah First Nation for over nine years, starting as the Housing Manager and gradually taking on more duties until becoming the Director of Operations in 2018. She is passionate about housing and community, working with Chilliwack Healthier Communities and the Housing Task Force on behalf of Skwah First Nation. In her spare time she is the executive secretary for the Chilliwack Flight Fest, the Chilliwack Liberal EDA, and the Imagine High PAC, is the co-captain of her local Blockwatch, and is the Sweeps Captain for the Tour de Cure. She is excited to have the BC FN Housing Managers Association finally take form and looks forward to working with everyone across BC.



2:30 PM - 2:45 PM

## HEALTH BREAK





## 2:45 - 4:25PM CONCURRENT DIALOGUE SESSIONS

### ROOM 103 *ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE ON CLOSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE GAP WITH FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL PARTNERS*

*Moderated by Michael Sadler, FNHC*

Housing funding is complex and multi-jurisdictional. This session will provide funders with an opportunity to engage with and share Indigenous-specific funding programs with participants. This panel will begin with a presentation by **Matthew George, Policy Analyst at the Assembly of First Nations, who will provide a summary of the AFN's Closing the Infrastructure Gap by 2030 report**, followed by presentations from federal and provincial partners and a Q&A for participants to provide feedback on the following questions:

- 1) What can government agencies and funders do to support administrative challenges or gaps? (e.g., clarity over funding criteria, consistent template submissions, reporting timelines, templates, reporting criteria, etc.)
- 2) Are you aware of untapped capacity in your communities that funders and government agencies can support/nurture? (e.g., cross-training, skills-sharing/development, job-shadowing etc.)
- 3) Many First Nations have called for a transfer of services and program delivery for housing away from government agencies and, instead, have First Nations assume control of their own housing and infrastructure service and program delivery. Many First Nations in BC support a coordinated First Nations-led housing authority, such as the work undertaken by the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council. Others seek to take this on at the community level. What does a transfer of authority look like in your community, and how can government agencies and First Nations organizations work to support this?

#### **Panellists**

##### ***Mary Gerges, Executive Director, Reconciliation and Equity Strategies at BC Housing***

Mary is a values-driven professional who has dedicated her career to the pursuit of work that supports social and economic inclusion of marginalized communities. Mary is Indigenous to Egypt as a member of the Coptic community who traces their ancestry back to the pre-Arab ancient Egyptian peoples. Mary's passion for working in the reconciliation space stems from her experience working on multiple reconciliation files, including the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, and with Indigenous non-profits such as Reconciliation Canada and Indigenous Tourism BC. She's currently a board member of the Orange Shirt Society.



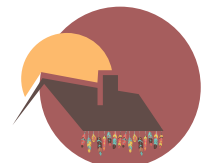
##### ***Jessica Gordon, Senior Director for the Housing and Infrastructure Service Reform Directorate at Indigenous Services Canada***

Her current work supports the transfer of care, control and management of housing and infrastructure to First Nations in the spirit of self-determination. Jessica holds a degree in Political Science from the University of Ottawa, and has served most of her public service career in various sectors within Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). Jessica has supported corporate roles within the departments as well as external facing roles engaging with communities.



##### ***Deanna Bhandar, Specialist, Indigenous and Northern Housing Solutions, CMHC***

Deanna joined the INHS BC team with CMHC as a Specialist working with First Nations and urban Indigenous housing providers in 2021. Prior to joining CMHC, she worked as the Director of Real Estate Development for a large scale non-profit in Victoria leading the delivery of over 220 units. Her work in the affordable housing sector began over 20 years ago and has included tenures with both the federal, provincial governments, and financial institutions with a focus on delivering a wide range of housing solutions including homes for people experiencing homelessness to seniors housing and affordable rental.





## 2:45 - 4:25 PM CONCURRENT DIALOGUE SESSIONS

### ROOM 204

## FIRST NATIONS HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL TIER 1 ENGAGEMENT (FIRST NATIONS-ONLY) - GOVERNANCE

*The First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Council (FNHIC) is creating a First Nations-led Housing and Infrastructure Organization in British Columbia for First Nations 'based on First Nations' traditional values, principles, and governance practices. It's imperative that FNHIC establishes a system of governance that meets the needs of the organization as well as those people it serves including Chiefs, leadership and community members. This engagement session focuses on what these systems could look like and how those accountability mechanisms will work to serve the interests of First Nations in BC.*

### Meet the FNHIC Staff

#### **Krystal Scheck - Operations Administrator**

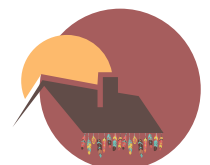
Krystal's primary responsibilities are Accounting and Payroll, Administrative Support to Directors, and Administration. Driven by passion for a First Nations led Housing & Infrastructure Authority, she takes pride in providing the best support and practices possible. When Krystal has free time, she enjoys spending it with her family, staying active, and reading. She is from the Lilwat Nation in the St'át'imc Territory.



#### **Sharon McKay - Program Manager**

Sharon is a Secwepemc, a member of Simpcw First Nation 45 min North of Kamloops. She has spent most of her life residing in the Wells Grey Park BC with her 4 children and 5 grandkids. She has a B.A. from Thompson River University Majoring in English and Minorng in Social Sciences. She also received a diploma in First Nations Housing Managers from Vancouver Island University.

Sharon has enjoyed her time in the culinary world where she owned her own restaurant. She then took on the housing manager role in her own community. Built 6 homes and several more projects like helping build the language learning centre. Sharon is thrilled to be part working with an amazing team that is working to create better housing within our First Nation bands of BC. Sharon has been hired with FNHIC as a Program Manger. She will work with the HUB coordinators and Asset Assessment Pilot Project Coordinator. Sharon loves spending time with her kids, grandkids, travelling, kayaking, hiking and sewing.







## 2:45 - 4:25 PM **CONCURRENT DIALOGUE SESSIONS**

### ROOM 201 *HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS AND UPHOLDING THE HUMAN RIGHT TO HOUSING*

This breakout discussion explores the role of First Nations and the Federal Housing Advocate in protecting the rights of First Nations living in encampments, promoting regional initiatives related to protecting the rights of First Nations living in encampments, and exploring solutions to support people to move from encampments (if they wish) to permanent solutions providing adequate housing.

#### **Presenters**

##### ***Maia McKinley, Office of the Federal Housing Advocate***

Maia McKinley (she/her) lives on the unceded territories of the ləkʷəŋən-speaking people, including the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. She is a Senior Policy Advisor with the Office of the Federal Housing Advocate and supports the Advocate's duties to engage with people experiencing homelessness and housing precarity, conduct research, and monitor and review systemic housing issues in Canada. Maia is a collaborator by nature with years of community-based engagement and intergovernmental relations experience. She draws from her roots in the non-profit sector and her experience in housing and immigration policy at the provincial and federal levels to passionately advocate for human rights-based solutions and Indigenous reconciliation. She is a proud mother of four children (two with fur and two without) and seeks time in nature every day.



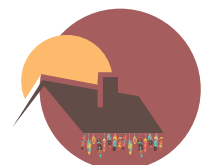
##### ***Dr. Joe Hermer, University of Toronto***

Joe Hermer is an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, and Chair of the Sociology Department at the University of Toronto Scarborough. He works in the area of law and criminology with a particular focus on the policing and regulation of vulnerable populations. He is currently the lead investigator of the Policing and Homelessness Initiative ([policinghomelessness.ca](http://policinghomelessness.ca)). One of the main projects of this initiative is the mapping of anti-homeless offences located in municipal by-laws across Canada, including a report written with the BCAFN entitled "Move On: The First Ninety-Nine Days of the City of Prince George Safe Streets Bylaw".



## 4:25 - 4:30 PM **CLOSING PRAYER**

### ROOM 103







# DAY 2 PROGRAM

8:00 - 9:00 AM

**BREAKFAST**

9:00 - 9:45 AM

**DAY 1 RECAP AND OVERVIEW OF DAY 2**

*GRAPHIC RECORDING PRESENTATION BY ELENA STERRITT*

Elena Sterritt is a Chinese Indigenous Graphic Recorder from Gitksan nation around the Skeena river area of northern British Columbia. She started her Company "Gisghaast" (gis-gast) in 2021.



9:45 - 10:10 AM

**HONOURABLE MINISTER RAVI KAHLON**

*MINISTERIAL UPDATES PROVIDED BY THE MINISTER FOLLOWED BY A SHORT Q&A*



Ravi Kahlon was first elected as MLA for Delta North in May 2017. He is B.C.'s Minister of Housing. He previously served as the Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, and before that held several Parliamentary Secretary roles.

As Parliamentary Secretary for Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, he championed the use of mass timber and innovation in B.C.'s forest sector. As Parliamentary Secretary for Sport and Multiculturalism he helped restore the BC Human Rights Commission and traveled the province to build an anti-racism strategy.

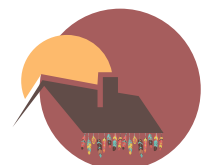
As Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation, Ravi's first priority was to support families and communities through the pandemic and he worked closely with businesses, workers, First Nations and communities to develop and deliver on a strategy for long-term sustainability, jobs and growth.

Ravi's love for sports and athletic competition has also shaped his outlook. When he was seven years old, his father introduced him to field hockey. A two-time Olympian, Ravi played field hockey for Team Canada at the 2000 and 2008 Olympics.

10:10 - 10:30 AM

**HEALTH BREAK**

**BCAFN HOUSING FORUM**





10:30 - 12:00PM

ROOM 103

## CONCURRENT DIALOGUE SESSIONS

### URBAN AND RURAL YOUTH PERSPECTIVES ON THE HOUSING CRISIS

*Moderated by Taylor Behn-Tsakoza*

By bringing together youth voices, this panel seeks to explore the unique challenges First Nations youth face in the housing and homelessness crisis. The discussion will encompass issues such as cultural identity, educational opportunities, mental health, and access to support networks. Through personal narratives and insights, the panel aims to foster a deeper understanding of the multifaceted aspects of the housing crisis and, importantly, to identify collaborative strategies and solutions sensitive to the specific needs of First Nations youth in urban and rural environments.

#### **Panellists**

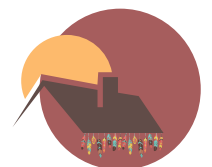
##### ***Katisha Paul, UBCIC Youth Representative***

Katisha Paul, also known as Kwikws ɫvʂáos (Little Angel), is a xwíł̓əxw sténi? (woman of this land: She/her pronouns) from the W̱ JOŁEŁP and Lil'wat nations. She was recently elected as the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) Youth Representative and is an administrative mentee of Tsatsu Stalqayu (Coastal Wolf Pack). Kwikws ɫvʂáos advocates for the advancement of land, title, and human rights by implementing the action items of the Declaration Act Action Plan, amalgamating Indigenous law and Canadian law, and sustaining Indigenous relations.

##### ***Matthew Norris, President of Urban Native Youth Association***

Matthew is the president of the Urban Native Youth Association, which provides programming for Indigenous youth and their families. Norris brings years of policy experience with the BC Assembly of First Nations, Union of BC Indian Chiefs, the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, and as an Indigenous delegate to the United Nations. He is Nehithaw and a proud member of Lac La Ronge First Nation.

The Daylu Dena Council recently completed a housing project on reserve in partnership with the Province of BC and BC housing that seeks to provide housing for women, children, youth and people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Lower Post, managed by the Lower Power First Nation Housing Society. A Youth from Lower Post will be sharing about the impacts of the project on youth in the community.





10:30 - 12:00 PM

## CONCURRENT DIALOGUE SESSIONS

ROOM 204

### FIRST NATIONS HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL TIER 1 ENGAGEMENT (FIRST NATIONS-ONLY) - TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY

FNHIC cannot proceed with a transfer of authorities from Indigenous Services Canada without getting an endorsement from BC First Nations Leadership as they represent the First Nations rights and title holders in BC and also have the responsibility working with their respective communities to make important decisions that will ultimately have an effect on their lives. 53 First Nations have signed Band Council Resolutions to support FNHIC's transfer. This session will share more about what a transfer of authority would look like and provide space for participants to share their perspective on the transfer process.

#### Meet the FNHIC Staff

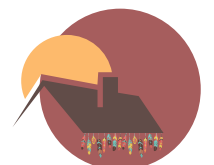
##### **Beverly Smith - Regional Engagement Coordinator**

Beverly is a member of Samahquam which is one of 10 tribes of the St'at'imc Nation. I am married and live in my community Q'aLaTku7em. She has over 15 years' experience as a Housing Manager/Coordinator/Consultant and project manager. In addition, over 15 years extensive senior management/supervisory skills. Beverly has assisted First Nations in building their Comprehensive Community Planning and has coordinated and facilitated many workshops for both on an off-reserve members'. With the professional experience in various positions in working with First Nations community's environment, she is very excited to have the opportunity to take part in the creation of a Housing and Infrastructure Authority.



##### **Kerry Black - Senior Advisor**

Kerry brings research experience and expertise relating to sustainable infrastructure in First Nations communities to her work with HIC. She has worked for the past 10 years in both the public and private sectors, on water and wastewater management in First Nations communities across Canada. Most recently Kerry served as a Senior Policy Advisor in Housing & Infrastructure with the Assembly of First Nations. Kerry previously worked as an Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia in Civil Engineering. She has just transitioned to the University of Calgary as a Schulich Research Chair, and maintains a strong base in BC. Her work is centered on community-based participatory approaches, encompassing research relating to engineering infrastructure and sustainable communities, with a key focus on the incorporation of Indigenous-centered research methodologies.





10:30- 12:00PM

ROOM 201

## CONCURRENT DIALOGUE SESSIONS

### FIRST NATIONS-LED CLIMATE RESILIENT HOUSING INITIATIVES

This dialogue session spotlights innovative and community-driven efforts led by First Nations in BC to address climate resilience within the housing sector. Focusing on sustainable and climate-resilient housing initiatives, the discussion will showcase successful models, strategies, and technologies implemented by First Nations communities. The dialogue aims to highlight the importance of Indigenous knowledge, community engagement, and cultural considerations in designing and implementing housing solutions that not only withstand the impacts of climate change but also align with the values and needs of the communities.

#### Presenters

##### **Patrick Michell, Kanaka Bar Indian Band**

Patrick Michell is a Retired Chief of Kanaka Bar Indian Band and resident of Lytton, BC. Patrick has an Administrative Management diploma from Douglas College, and a Bachelor of Law. After working in Vancouver with DFO and INAC, Patrick articulated with the Ministry of Attorney General, and Richards Buell Sutton, before being called to the Bar in 1997.



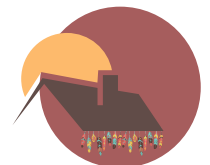
##### **Leona Humchitt, Climate Action Coordinator at Hailzaqv Nation**

Zuḡvalaqs (Leona Humchitt) was raised to serve her community, and being a grandmother now drives her passion for this work. She attended COP26 in Glasgow as a member of the Indigenous Clean Energy Advisory Board. Leona is working locally and regionally with a peer network of Climate Action Coordinators who represent eight participating Coastal First Nations of B.C. They support each other and collaborate on efforts to decarbonize our coast in order to transition from diesel generation and reduce the transportation of fossil fuels through their ecologically and culturally significant territories.



##### **Nicola Prokrop, Leader, Indigenous Reconciliation & Partnerships, Technical Safety BC**

Nicola is a passionate and dedicated Anishinaabe professional with 8+ years of experience in public policy and change-making through a decolonial lens. She began her career working with urban Indigenous organizations to advocate for the importance of Indigenous-led mental health and addiction services, and she brings this commitment to Indigenous well-being to her work at Technical Safety BC. Nicola specializes in strategic planning and implementation, project management, multi-sectoral stakeholder relationship building, and community engagement.



12:00 - 1:00 PM

## LUNCH

1:00 - 1:15 PM

## ADDRESS BY MARIE-JOSÉE HOULE. - FEDERAL HOUSING ADVOCATE

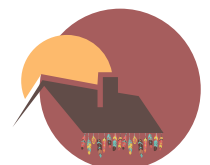
### UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ACT AND THE HUMAN RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING

Marie-Josée Houle was appointed as Canada's first Federal Housing Advocate in February 2022, marking a new chapter in a career defined by her work in the affordable housing and homelessness sector.

Ms. Houle is an experienced leader who is recognized for her community activism, expertise in human rights, and extensive knowledge of the housing and homelessness system.

Prior to her appointment as Canada's first Federal Housing Advocate, Ms. Houle has held a number of roles that inform her broad experience, including frontline work in housing co-ops, consulting and project management for affordable housing development, by-law review, housing-related research projects, developing educational programs for housing co-ops and non-profits, and senior leadership roles.

Ms. Houle has been actively involved in advocacy work at a national, provincial and community level. She has advocated for tenant rights and the non-profit housing sector at all three levels of government. She has worked with diverse partners in the sector to foster innovation and entrepreneurship, improve efficiencies, influence key opinion leaders, leverage strategic partnerships, and address gaps and human rights violations related to housing and access to housing. Building a sense of community among diverse partners is particularly important to her. Ms. Houle has been a member the National Right to Housing Network, the Ottawa Alliance to End Homelessness and the Canadian Housing Renewal Association. She sat on the Ottawa Homelessness Community Advisory Board, the Ottawa Social Housing Network Steering Committee, and co-chaired both the City of Ottawa's Housing Loss Prevention Committee, and the Refugee 613 Housing Task Force.





1:15 - 2:30 PM

## CHIEFS AND LEADERS PANEL

### THE UN DECLARATION AND THE RIGHT TO HOUSING

*Moderated by Dr. Joe Hermer*

This concluding panel discusses the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) in relation to the human right to housing. This discussion delves into advocacy for all levels of government to uphold the UN Declaration and the right to adequate, climate-resilient, and culturally appropriate housing for First Nations communities in BC. Key topics include legal frameworks, land rights, cultural considerations, and community-driven approaches in housing initiatives.

#### Panelists



#### **Chief Priscilla Mueller, Saik'uz First Nation**

Priscilla Mueller is the elected Chief of Saik'uz First Nation and a member of the Grouse Clan. She is married to Reg Mueller and has three children and two grandchildren.



#### **Chief Dan Manuel, Upper Nicola Band**

Dan Manuel was elected Chief of the Upper Nicola Band in 2023 and currently sits on the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure as the Chief representative of BC.



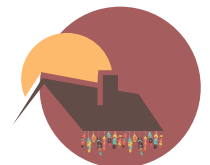
#### **BCAFN Regional Chief Terry Teegee**

Terry Teegee, is proudly serving his third term as the elected Regional Chief of the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations. Terry's ancestry is Dakelh, Gitksan and Sekani descent and is a member of Takla Nation. As Regional Chief, he has been an instrumental voice in the development and historic passing of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.



#### **Fran Hunt-Jinnouchi - Executive Director, Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness**

Fran has more than 20 years of experience in senior management and direct engagement working with Indigenous peoples. Her areas of expertise include Indigenous adult and post-secondary education and training. Fran is currently the Executive Director of the Aboriginal Coalition to end Homelessness and was the inaugural Director of the Office of Indigenous Affairs at the University of Victoria.







# FIRST NATIONS HOUSING FUNDING

*In partnership with Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation (CMHC) Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and BC Housing, below are current housing funding programs available to First Nations in BC. For more information, please contact CMHC, ISC and BC Housing staff at their information booths during the forum.*

## Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation (CMHC)

### Seed funding

**Deadline: Accepting applications in 2024 on an Ongoing basis**

The Seed Funding program supports affordable housing through interest-free loans and/or non-repayable contributions. There are two funding streams: one for new construction/conversions and one to preserve existing community housing projects. **For more information and to apply click [here](#)**

### National Housing Co-Investment Fund

**Deadline: Application process is ongoing**

The National Housing Co-Investment Fund provides capital to First Nations and non-profit housing providers for new affordable housing and renovating and repairing existing affordable and community housing. Funds are provided as low-interest and/or forgivable loans and contributions. **For more information and to apply click [here](#)**

### Canada Greener Affordable Housing

**Deadline: Pre-retrofit Funding - December 2023**

Retrofit funding – Applications are accepted on a continuous basis until funding has been fully committed

Canada Greener Affordable Housing helps affordable housing providers complete deep energy retrofits on existing multi-unit residential buildings. Pre-Retrofit funding supports costs for completing the pre-retrofit activities needed to plan, prepare, and apply for CGAH Retrofit Funding. Retrofit Funding will address climate capability and resiliency to multi-unit (5+) residential buildings, by providing forgivable loans and low-interest loans to help finance building retrofit measures and activities needed to meet climate objectives, leading to deep reductions in energy consumption and GHG emissions. **For more information and to apply click [here](#)**

### Indigenous Shelter and Transitional Housing Initiative

**Deadline: Application Process is ongoing**

The Indigenous Shelter and Transitional Housing Initiative supports the construction of shelters and transitional homes across Canada. It's focused on Indigenous people escaping gender-based violence including: women and their children; 2slgbtqia+

The allocation of funds is a contribution for up to 100% of eligible capital costs to use for new construction or conversion from a non-residential use to shelter or transitional housing. **For more information and to apply click [here](#)**

### Affordable Housing Innovation fund

**Deadline: application process is ongoing**

The Affordable Housing Innovation Fund supports new ideas that will drive change and disrupt the industry – ideas and approaches that will evolve the affordable housing sector and create the next generation of housing in Canada. **For more information and to apply click [here](#)**

### On-Reserve Non-Profit Housing Program (Section 95)

**Deadline: Expression of Interest are invited in Spring when budget is confirmed**

Through our Non-Profit Housing Program, we support First Nation communities by providing financial assistance to build affordable rental housing on-reserve. Apply for subsidies and loans to help construct, purchase and rehabilitate, as well as manage non-profit housing in your community. **For more information click [here](#)**

### Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) – Regular

**Deadline: Expression of Interest are invited in Spring when budget is confirmed**

Through our Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) On-Reserve, we help First Nations cover the costs of major repairs to substandard homes. **For more information click [here](#)**

### Home Adaptations for Seniors' Independence Program (HASI)

**Deadline: Expression of Interest are invited in Spring when budget is confirmed**

At CMHC, we want to help extend the time on-reserve seniors are able to live independently in their homes. With our Home Adaptations for Seniors' Independence Program (HASI) On-Reserve, we can provide financial support for your age-related home adaptations. **For more information click [here](#)**



## Emergency Repair Program (ERP)

**Deadline: Expression of Interest are invited in Spring when budget is confirmed**

If you need to make emergency repairs to your home to keep yourself and your family safe, we can help. Through our Emergency Repair Program (ERP) On-Reserve, we provide financial support to help low-income on-reserve households make the repairs they need. **For more information click [here](#)**

## Housing Internship for Indigenous Youth (HIY)

**Deadline: Expression of Interest are invited in Spring when budget is confirmed**

CMHC's Housing Internship for Indigenous Youth (HIY) program provides financial assistance – a wage subsidy – to organizations and businesses in the housing sector to hire Indigenous youth for internship positions. Hiring interns is an affordable way to add additional resources to your team. Eager to learn with on-the-job training, they often provide a different perspective and can be creative and innovative with ideas and solutions. Housing internships can also benefit the larger community by providing more dedicated support to addressing housing challenges and needs.

**For more information click [here](#)**

# Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)

## ISC Regional Office

### Housing Support Program (HSP)

HSP provides First Nations with funding through a subsidy based program that support the following activities:

1. Governance & Capacity: Housing policy and plan development, and non-post-secondary or certification related training.
2. Housing Projects: new construction, renovations, energy efficiency and multi-plexes.

**Funding Deadline: HSP new construction, renovations and energy efficiency activities, are through a continuous intake. HSP multi-plex FY 2024–2025 deadline is Wednesday, November 15, 2023.**

Funding Contact Information: Respective Community's ISC Regional Housing Officer

## ISC Headquarters

ISC's On-Reserve Housing Team (headquarters) has developed national parameters to support the release of Budget 2022 funds to address housing gaps and capacity enhancement activities.

Authorities derive from the overall Capital Facilities and Maintenance Program which guides communities infrastructure in First Nations communities. Applicants with projects of national scale are eligible to apply through headquarters, where others with regional specific activities must liaise directly with their respective regional office.

Eligible funds include:

- Capacity and Innovation: investments for national projects and initiatives that support First Nations' self-determination and self-governance (in mid to long term), support the implementation of national or regional First Nations housing strategies, and reduce reliance on federal funds. Funding can be used for testing, scale up and full roll out of proposed innovative approaches and skills and capacity enhancement projects.
- Construction and Immediate Needs: addressing immediate housing needs. The Immediate Needs Fund can provide funding for construction, renovations, additions and lot servicing for First Nation communities located on reserve, or on land set aside in Yukon territory.
- Subdivisions: intended to for development of new subdivisions and to address key infrastructure needs of new and existing subdivisions, such as lot servicing, road infrastructure, connections to drinking and waste water and electrical to existing networks.
- Housing Management Subsidy: supports First Nation communities who wish to increase their capacity around housing governance, management, training, planning and finance.

**Deadlines: Applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Review of applications for fiscal year 2024–25 is permissible.**

Contact: Jordan Gray – [Jordan.gray@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:Jordan.gray@sac-isc.gc.ca)

# BC Housing

## Community Housing Fund (CHF)

**Submission Deadline is November 17, 2023.**

The Province of British Columbia created the [Community Housing Fund \(CHF\)](#) in 2018. This fund is a \$3.3-billion investment to build more than 20,000 affordable rental homes for people with moderate and low incomes by 2031–32. Approximately 9,000 of these homes are open or underway across the province. The CHF has received funds for an extra 6,000 new homes for families and seniors. Over the next four years, the plan is to issue more CHF proposal calls and allocate the remaining units.

[Community Housing Fund RFP Factsheet](#)

## Indigenous Housing Fund (IHF)

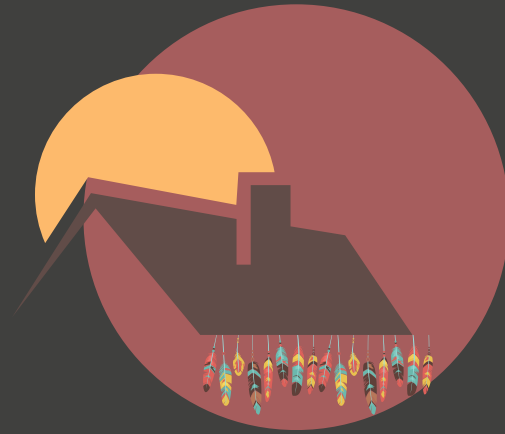
The Province, through the Building BC: Indigenous Housing Fund, is investing \$550 million over 10 years to support the building and operation of 1,750 new units of social housing for projects on and off-reserve. Together, with our non-profit housing providers, the Aboriginal Housing Management Association, Indigenous housing societies and First Nations, we're working hard to make housing better in all communities. In addition, Indigenous organizations and First Nations can access provincial support under all the new housing funds announced as part of Building BC.

The program is aimed at Indigenous families, seniors, individuals, and persons with a disability.

Contact [buildingbc@bchousing.org](mailto:buildingbc@bchousing.org) for more information on CHF and IHF



**BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS**



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