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**SUBJECT****INDIGENOUS HOUSING**

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**ISSUE**

How is the Government working with Indigenous Communities to help address housing needs?

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**RESPONSE**

- **The Government is committed to improving Indigenous housing outcomes, and to building a new relationship together with Indigenous peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, cooperation, and partnership.**
- **This Government has announced new funding in successive federal budgets since 2016 to support Indigenous housing across Canada – this includes First Nations living on reserve and in urban and rural communities, and in Inuit Nunangat and the North.**
- **We are providing \$1.5 billion for the implementation of three distinctions-based strategies: \$600M for a First Nations-led housing Strategy, \$400M for an Inuit-led housing strategy, and \$500M for a Métis Nation housing strategy.**
- **Mr. Speaker, we recognize that the Indigenous housing landscape is complex and that almost 80% of Indigenous households live in urban, rural and northern areas. This is a priority for our Government.**
- **This is why we requested that the National Housing Council investigate options to establish an independent, Indigenous-controlled organization to develop policy and administer funding for urban, rural and northern Indigenous housing strategy.**
- **Finally Mr. Speaker, the \$72+ billion National Housing Strategy includes investments that will make a difference in the lives of Indigenous peoples. It includes initiatives that support a range of housing options, from shelters, to community housing, to homeownership. Many initiatives under the NHS prioritize Indigenous housing.**

## BACKGROUND

### KEY FACTS

#### Fall Economic Statement + Budget 2021

- The Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) delivers a total of \$2.5 billion in contributions to rapidly create permanent new units of affordable housing across Canada.
  - Phase 1: Under the first round of the RHI (\$1 billion in 2020), almost 40% (1,836 units) of the approved RHI projects are for Indigenous projects.
  - Phase 2: \$1.5 billion over 2021-2022.

#### Canada's COVID-19 Response

- \$44.8 M over 5 years to build 12 shelters, including 2 in the territories, for Indigenous Women and Children experiencing and fleeing violence.
  - This is in addition to \$40.8 M over 5 years, and \$10M ongoing provided to Indigenous Services Canada operation and maintenance expenses.
  - As of June 17, 2021, funding was announced that will build these shelters in BC, AB (2), SK, MT (2), ON, QC, NB, NS, YK, NT.

#### Budget 2018

##### \$1.5B for distinctions-based housing strategies (delivered by ISC)

- **\$600M over three years** to support First Nations Housing Strategy that is being co-developed with First Nations (ISC);
- **\$400M over 10 years** to support an Inuit-led housing plan in the Inuit regions of Nunavik, Nunatsiavut, and Inuvialuit (ISC);
- **\$500M over 10 years** to support the Métis Nation's housing strategy (ISC);

#### Budget 2017

- **\$225M** to improve housing conditions for First Nations, Inuit and Métis people living in urban communities (\$200M delivered through provincial and territory agreements and \$25M for Indigenous housing projects will be delivered through the National Housing Co-Investment Fund.)
- **\$4B** for Indigenous community infrastructure, a portion of which may be dedicated to housing (to be determined) (delivered by ISC)
- **\$240M** over 10 years announced to support housing in Nunavut

#### Budget 2016

- **\$554.3M** over two years to address urgent housing needs:
  - \$416.6 million to address immediate housing needs.
  - \$127.7 million to support the renovation and retrofit of existing housing.
  - \$10 million for skills and capacity development for the design, construction, inspection and overall management of housing in First Nations communities.
  - **5,717 homes** have been renovated/retrofitted (As at March 31, 2018).
  - **464 communities** have capacity development activities supported (As at March 31, 2018)
- **\$10.4M** over three years (committed) for the construction of five new shelters for victims of family violence. As at March 31, 2019 construction of five shelters have been completed.

#### Budget 2016 and 2017

- **Budget 2016 provided \$5M for 2016-17 and Budget 2017 provided an additional \$12.8M** over three years under CMHC's Housing Internship Initiative for First Nation and Inuit Youth (HIIFNIY).
  - These investments provided **1,860 new internships** for Indigenous and Inuit youth between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2020.
- Enhancements to the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS) provided an additional **\$4 million** to support 275 paid HIIFNIY internships on June 25, 2020 as part of the Government's response to the affects of COVID-19 on youth employment.

#### Existing Funding (Section 95)

- **\$316M annually to First Nation communities in support of housing. Funding is delivered through Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).**
  - **\$173M:** CMHC portion
  - **Some 750 new homes** built, **over 450 houses** renovated and ongoing subsidy to **over 22,600 households.**

New funding was announced in recent and successive federal budgets (2016, 2017, 2018 and 2021) to support Indigenous housing across Canada – including First Nations living on reserve and in urban and rural communities, and in Inuit Nunangat and the North. CMHC and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) focus on different aspects of providing housing programs and services for eligible First Nation communities.

ISC funding is provided to eligible First Nations to support a range of housing activities, based on their priorities and at their discretion. CMHC delivers specific housing programs that support

construction, renovations, ongoing management of social housing and housing-specific development. CMHC has specialists located across the country that are working with Indigenous partners, communities and organizations to facilitate access to the NHS and other CMHC programs.

CMHC's On-Reserve Non-Profit Housing Program (Section 95) assists First Nations in the construction, purchase and rehabilitation and administration of rental housing on-reserve. CMHC's On-Reserve Renovation Programs offer financial assistance to First Nations to repair substandard homes to a minimum level of health and safety, to convert non-residential properties into affordable self-contained housing units, and improve the accessibility of housing for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities. CMHC's Shelter Enhancement Program on reserve offers financial assistance for the repair, rehabilitation and improvement of existing shelters in First Nation communities for survivors of family violence. For social housing under the responsibility of the federal government through CMHC, the Federal Community Housing Initiative will help protect affordability for low-income households, including Indigenous peoples, served by housing providers with expiring operating agreements.

Indigenous peoples and Northerners will benefit from an additional \$300 million over 10 years, delivered to the territories, to support new construction and repairs to existing affordable housing in Northern communities. Cost-matching is not required for this federal contribution.

### **Support for Distinctions-Based Housing Strategies**

The Government of Canada has been working with First Nation, Inuit and Métis Nation partners to co-develop distinct strategies that supports their respective vision of self-determination and aims to improve social and economic outcomes at the community level. ISC and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) continue to co-develop implementation and a path forward to reconciliation, and CMHC remains an active partner in this work.

The First Nations National Housing and related Infrastructure Strategy was developed and adopted by the Assembly of First Nations' Chiefs-in-Assembly in December 2018, with plans for implementation currently under development. ISC will seek longer-term funding from the Government of Canada to support this strategy in early 2021. The Strategy will support new construction and repairs to First Nations housing units on-reserve, through \$600 million over 3 years announced in Budget 2016. First Nations are leading the development of the Strategy to ensure the future of housing and infrastructure reform is envisioned from a First Nations perspective. Moving forward, First Nations and the Government of Canada will continue to work together to co-develop and implement this Strategy that moves toward a long-term approach that will support First Nations care, control and management of housing and infrastructure and address the needs of First Nations people living both on and off reserve.

The Inuit Nunangat Housing Strategy was released in April 2019 and is currently in the implementation phase. It will provide direction for the Government of Canada's investments in Inuit housing of \$400 million over 10 years, announced in Budget 2018, for the three Inuit regions of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (NWT), Nunavik (Quebec) and Nunatsiavut (NWT). This is in addition to the \$240 million over 10 years announced in Budget 2017 to support housing in Nunavut. The Government is also working closely with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) and Inuit land claim governments and organizations through the recently established Inuit-Crown Partnership Committee. CIRNAC leads this co-development process, with continued support from CMHC. This collaborative work respects and strengthens the Inuit-Crown relationship and will help achieve the common goal of reducing the housing needs in Inuit Nunangat and developing long-term solutions that reflect Inuit lifestyles, traditions and culture. The approach being taken emphasizes the direct role of Inuit organizations and governments in addressing housing needs in their communities, the need for long-term sustainable investments and the importance of ongoing collaboration.

The signing of a Canada-Métis Nation Accord on April 13, 2017, marked a significant step toward a renewed relationship based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation and partnership. The Accord outlines the ways in which the Government and the Métis Nation will work together to set priorities and develop policy in areas of shared interest, including housing. Key goals are to facilitate greater Métis Nation control of housing delivery and improve access to more housing options, such as affordable homeownership. Crown Indigenous Relations Canada leads this co-development process, with continued support from CMHC. Additionally, the Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord was signed in July 2018, by the Government of Canada and the Governing Members of the Métis National Council and is currently in the implementation phase. The Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord is funded from Budget 2018, with \$500 million over 10 years for Métis Nation. Funding for years one to three have been allocated. The parties will assess progress at the three-year mark (2021) to determine future allocations on the basis of a co-developed needs assessment.

The respectful process established to collaboratively develop each of the Indigenous housing strategies will take time, but will lay the foundation for the achievement of better housing outcomes over the long term.

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