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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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#### KEY FACTS – INVESTMENTS

##### **Budget 2018**

- **\$1.5B for distinctions-based housing strategies (delivered by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC))**
  - **\$600M over 3 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); and**
  - **\$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 (delivered by ISC).**
- **\$240M over 10 years announced to support housing in Nunavut.**

##### **Budget 2016**

- **\$554.3M over 2 years to improve housing in First Nations communities:**
  - **\$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.**
  - **464 communities have capacity development activities supported.**
  - **\$10.4M over 3 years (committed) for the construction of five new shelters for victims of family violence. The construction of the five shelters have been completed.**
- **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**
- **1,456 new internships for Indigenous and Inuit youth since April 1, 2016.**

##### **Existing Funding (Section 95)**

- **\$326M annually to First Nation communities in support of housing. Funding is delivered through CMHC(\$183M) and ISC (\$143M).**
  - **Almost 750 new homes built, 450 houses renovated and ongoing subsidy to almost 23,000 households. (From April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020).**
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#### RESPONSE

- **We are 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.**
- **Through the National Housing Strategy investments of \$55+ billion, the Government will make a difference in the lives of Indigenous peoples, including initiatives under the strategy to support a range of housing options.**

- Under the \$13.2 billion National Housing Co-Investment Fund, projects serving Indigenous peoples are being prioritized and can include projects across the housing continuum.
- The \$500 million Federal Community Housing Initiative is also helping to protect affordability for low-income households, including Indigenous peoples, served by housing providers with expiring operating agreements.
- An investment of \$225 million will ensure community housing providers can protect affordability and undertake necessary repairs to units for Indigenous peoples living in urban, rural and northern communities.
- Indigenous peoples and Northerners will benefit from an additional \$300 million over 10 years, to support new construction and repairs to existing affordable housing in Northern communities.
- In addition to this funding, the Government is providing \$1.5 billion in distinctions-based support for a First Nations-led housing Strategy, an Inuit-led housing strategy, and the Métis Nation's housing strategy. The strategies are being developed collaboratively and with respect and will lay the foundation of better housing outcomes for these communities over the long term.

*If asked about CMHC approach for Indigenous Housing*

- CMHC has a dedicated team of specialists that works closely with Indigenous and Northern communities to co-develop innovative housing solutions and increase access to funding and financing. This team removes barriers, tailors processes and applies program flexibilities to better meet the needs of Indigenous and Northern clients and improve housing outcomes.
- CMHC has appointed a Special Advisor to oversee the development and implementation of a new framework to advance reconciliation. This positions CMHC to make a meaningful contribution to Canada's new relationship with Indigenous peoples.

*If asked about COVID-19 measures for Indigenous communities*

- We recognize that many Indigenous communities are facing unique and unprecedented challenges as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- We are closely monitoring the situation and our priority is to protect the health, safety and well-being of Indigenous communities during this period of uncertainty.
- To support Indigenous communities during this period, we have introduced several measures including loan payment deferrals, reporting and agreement flexibilities, work-arounds for on-site progress inspections, and honouring contributions for skills training initiatives where activities have been delayed by COVID-19.
- In May 2020, we announced support to Indigenous families and communities during the COVID-19 crisis. This includes \$44.8 million over five years to construct 12 new shelters, which will help protect and support Indigenous women and girls experiencing and fleeing violence.
- We are working hard to ensure funding continues to flow for on-reserve programs that help build new and repair existing housing, while being sensitive to the working environments of many First Nations right now, who have needed to close or restrict access to their communities.