
SUBJECT**SHELTERS**

ISSUE

How will the National Housing Strategy support survivors of domestic violence?

RESPONSE

- **With COVID-19, and the related increase in gender-based violence and risk of homelessness for many women, more than ever home has become a sanctuary — a place of safety and refuge.**
- **Providing a safe and secure space for woman and children fleeing domestic violence is a priority for the Government of Canada and is one of the main priorities of the National Housing Strategy.**
- **Since 2016, we've helped create and repair more than 6,700 shelter units and spaces, as well as investing to support projects that specifically target women and girls.**
- **We also recognize the need for more shelter space in First Nation Communities. Our Government will provide a total of \$44.8 million over the next five years to build 12 new shelters in First Nations communities on reserve across the country, and in the territories.**
- **Providing a safe and secure space for Indigenous women and children who are victims of domestic violence on reserve is a priority for the Government of Canada.**

KEY FACTS

- **National Housing Strategy:**
 - **\$13.2 billion** in a **National Housing Co-Investment Fund** which will create up to **60,000** new units of housing and repair up to **240,000** units of existing affordable and community housing.
 - As of December 31, 2020, this initiative has created over 700 new shelter units/spaces and renewed or repaired over 200 existing shelter units/spaces.
 - Along with Budget 2016, the NHS will create and repair at least 7,000 shelter units/spaces.
- **\$1.1 billion in PT Priority Funding** (\$2.2B cost-matched) that PTs have the flexibility to use for jurisdictional priorities, which may include activities that support women and children fleeing domestic violence.
 - As of December 31, 2020 – \$320 million in NHS FPT agreement Fund to create over 2,500 new units of housing and to repair over 56,500 units of existing affordable and community housing, including \$1 million for 140 units for Women and children fleeing domestic violence.
- The National Housing Strategy will aim for a **target of 25 per cent** of investments towards the needs of women and children.
 - As of December 31, 2020 the NHS created over 1,400 new units and over 20,800 repaired units for a total funding of \$537 million- representing 19% total investments towards women and children.
- Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) (2011-2019):
 - Over \$106 million in combined Federal-Provincial-Territories investment as of March 31, 2020.
 - Over 5,200 units/spaces supported in terms of both construction and renovation.
- Budget 2016 (IAH):
 - **Additional \$89.9 million** over two years (2016/17- 2017/18) for the construction and renovation of shelter spaces and transition housing for survivors of family violence.
 - 5,868 shelters units/spaces as of March 31, 2018.
- Funding On Reserve:
 - Government of Canada through CMHC will provide **\$44.8 million** over five years to build **12 new shelters** (10 in First Nations communities on reserve across the country, two in the territories) to help protect and support Indigenous women and girls experiencing and fleeing violence.
 - The government through Indigenous Services Canada will also provide \$40.8 million to support operational costs for these new shelters over the first five years, and \$10.2 million annually ongoing.
 - **\$2.3 million** in federal funding has been invested under the Shelter Enhancement Program (Jan 2011 – July 2020).
 - 22 shelters were renovated and/or built on-reserve.
Additional \$10.4 million in Budget 2016 for the construction of **five new shelters** for persons fleeing domestic violence (all five shelters are completed).

BACKGROUND

Specific to Indigenous Shelters:

Announced in May, 2020, the Government of Canada through CMHC will provide a total of \$44.8 million over five years to build 12 new shelters, which will help protect and support Indigenous women and girls experiencing and fleeing violence. This funding will help build 10 shelters in First Nations communities on reserve across the country, and two in the territories, to support Indigenous women and children. The government through Indigenous Services Canada will also provide \$40.8 million to support operational costs for these new shelters over the first five years, and \$10.2 million annually ongoing.

Budget 2016 provided \$10.4 million five shelters in First Nation communities, which are situated in Lake Babine (British Columbia), Black Lake (Saskatchewan), Nisichawayasihk (Manitoba), Wikwemikong (Ontario) and Kawawachikamach (Québec). Funding was delivered through CMHC, with operational funding flowing through Indigenous Services Canada. These shelters were fully operational in 2019. These are in addition to the existing 51 shelters currently serving women and children in First Nation communities.