



Indigenous Housing Collaborative

Vision

EndPovertyEdmonton convenes a table called the Indigenous Housing Collaborative (IHC). The collaborative is made up of Edmonton-based Indigenous organizations and First Nations that are transforming the housing landscape through collaboration and partnerships.

The focus is to bring a collective voice that will work towards equitable opportunities for Indigenous peoples and communities; work with partners to achieve tangible outcomes, and, overall, give Indigenous people the right to housing. To see our people have a home on their own traditional lands.

Values

As a Collaborative, the IHC will have the following values that guide their discussions, ongoing work, and future planning:

- Relationship, honoring and respecting each other's work
- Independence
- Equality
- Empowerment
- Community
- Education
- Housing betterment
- Teamwork/collaboration
- Reconciliation, decolonization and Indigenization
- Compassion
- To have balance

Priorities

The IHC has the potential to impact the housing landscape in Edmonton and the surrounding area by advocating for Indigenous peoples and creating partnerships with Industry. To maximize this potential, the IHC will focus on the following priorities to create housing abundance and system change for Indigenous peoples:

- Understanding who we are/value as Indigenous people in the housing sector.
- Collaboration and collectively using our strengths, to have an impact on systemic issues in funding and program delivery.
- Networking and connecting with organizations, government, funders, and potential developers for our people.
- Recognizing Indigenous ways of doing and being.
- Addressing capacity building. Land/property, operational, resources, funds.
- Through advocacy we will ensure Indigenous involvement to create and amplify a stronger Indigenous voice.
- Sustainable and long-term housing for indigenous people.
- Educating and promoting on Indigenous led housing.



- Ensuring Indigenous people and communities build strength, knowledge and security in housing needs.
- To develop an awareness of the Indigenous specific housing needs and needs of the unhoused.
- Change Industry standards and decolonize the way housing is delivered to Indigenous people.
- Development of a standard for nonindigenous service providers who provide Indigenous housing to ensure indigenous housing spaces are culturally appropriate. So they understand their role in Indigenous sovereignty.
- Support each other in our mandates.

The Belief

Along with the vision, there is a belief that IHC can make impactful change. There is a desire to be the voice and advocate for Indigenous people to approach all levels of government, developers and funders to get sustainable and long-term housing. The goal is to improve the representation of Indigenous people in housing and in leadership roles involving housing.

This would be done through collaboration and partnerships that would facilitate conversations between all parties involved. The IHC would be seen as the credible source for partners to contact to learn more about Indigenous housing. The IHC will educate all four levels of government, developers and funders on the importance of inclusive, progressive and sustainable Indigenous housing within their sectors.

The IHC not only wants to implement change but wants to be at the forefront of it. The IHC has the potential to be a leader in collaboration for improving the Indigenous housing in Edmonton and surrounding areas. The IHC will be a voice of an Indigenous Housing Collaborative, but also an Indigenous housing force so large that all four levels of government, developers and funders can't ignore them.

The How

There is a lot of potential and belief, but how will this happen? Here are some potential actions that IHC can focus on to work towards their vision:

Networking

- This collective would be able to network to bring them to community events, conferences, City of Edmonton's Council and Committee meetings (as an example).
- Community report cards for agencies who deliver housing.
- Get others to see what we are doing. Set an example for the rest.
- IHC can connect with indigenous community members' voices by hosting events and gatherings.
- Networking, collaboration, sharing, advocating.

Research

- Identify gaps and strengths to improve what is happening with housing in Edmonton and surrounding areas.
- Have discussions and gather information from the group. More facilitated discussions for the group.
- What is long term housing sustainability? - questions to ask the community. Nonindigenous housing providers - how are they going to adjust to the unique needs of our people? Needs, such



as, indigenous way of knowing and being, our sense of community, cultural appropriation, the need to decolonize services, systemic barriers to funding.

Set Standards

- Create criteria/charter for housing agencies to meet in order to receive funding for housing Indigenous people.
- Concern - our indigenous housing providers don't get fair chances at funding. We hear a lot of promises and nothing that is meaningful and impactful.
- Create a partnership with the city, so these partnerships lead to much more impact.
- Identify some projects that this collaborative can attend, and advocate for the group, and how they can provide support.
- Advocate to meet the needs of their organization and clients.
- Become too big to fail.
- Work with partners that will build on our strengths and knowledge.
- Start to look at skills that are not traditionally expected as a western priority but are expected in traditional/cultural needs.

How will IHC work collaboratively?

The IHC is collaborative, but there needs to be a foundation that the collaboration is built on. The following are steps that IHC can take to build that foundation:

Process Development

- The IHC should develop a process for new potential partners to outline their request for the group. This could be an online form, such as Google forms, that asks for the following information:
 - Point person for contact
 - Contact information number
 - Resources or request needed
 - Timelines
 - Project description
 - Current Indigenous awareness or involvement
 - Current Indigenous partnerships, if any
 - Their appetite to enter into an MOU with the IHC
- Develop a database to keep track of requests.
- A point of contact for potential partners who are indigenous owned and operated. The IHC isn't formal with Chairs, so the point of contact should be an administrator from EndPovertyEdmonton that would then share the information with IHC members.

Communication

- Internal communication
 - There should be an internal communication software used for the group, such as Google chat or Slack to share information, have easy access to other IHC members, and to quickly gather the IHC opinion.
 - Use internal communication software to share incoming requests.
- External communication



- Develop a referral process for potential partners to use and IHC members to share with the community.
- Create a website to share information about the group, individual members, how to work with the group, and a “community board” to share opportunities.
- Host information sessions with prospective partners.
- Create community awareness of the IHC through social media campaigns and traditional news outlets.

Members

- Métis Urban Housing Corporation & Métis Capital Housing Corporation
- Native Counselling Service of Alberta
- Tribal Chiefs Ventures Inc.
- Creating Hope Society
- Edmonton Aboriginal Seniors Center
- Paul First Nation
- All Nations Property Mgmt. Inc
- Niginan Housing Ventures
- Tallcree First Nation, Treaty 8
- Enoch Cree Nation
- Red Road Healing Society and Reaching Home Fires

