



**Aboriginal Housing Management Association
Neha Submission**

Contact information:

Celeste Hayward

Director of Operations

Aboriginal Housing Management Association

Phone: 604-921-2462

Email: chayward@ahma-bc.org

Submitted March 2025



About the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA)

Founded in 1996, the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) is an umbrella organization of 55 Indigenous housing and service providers. AHMA's members oversee 95% of Indigenous housing units across the province for those not living on reserve. This includes over 6,400 units that provide homes to First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and self-identified Indigenous families living in urban, rural, and northern regions of British Columbia (BC), with over 1,600 additional units currently under development.

In addition to providing Indigenous peoples, their families, and communities with affordable housing, AHMA's members offer many support services. These include homelessness prevention, parenting skills, mental health programs, substance use support, and more. AHMA members provide a culturally safe space for Indigenous peoples to make their home—wherever they settle, by facilitating connections to community and cultural resources. This includes housing and supports for those experiencing homelessness and wanting to transition to supportive housing.

Introduction

Past and present colonial practices have created systemic and societal discrimination that have perpetuated violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. In particular, the *Indian Act* has worked to sever the relationship between an Indigenous woman, her community, and her family by determining which women were allowed to have status, access to supports, live on their reserve, and pass along status to their family based on how they lived and whom they married (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, 2019). In addition to the *Indian Act*, western culture has negatively impacted Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples' role in their communities; severing the ties of how tradition, language, culture, and medicines were passed down (Klingspohn, 2018). Since the release of the National Inquiry and the 231 Calls to Justice, Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people continue to experience disproportionate levels of violence. This is evident by the ongoing accounts of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people who have been murdered and/or have gone missing (Schwan et al. 2020).

While such violence has been long documented and increasingly publicized in Canada, in many cases, it has not informed the planning of housing interventions (Bingham et al. 2019). Housing is inextricably linked to safety and the gaps in housing for Indigenous women and girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ places them at greater risk (Bingham et al. 2019). In British Columbia (BC), there are few culturally supportive housing models across the housing continuum to keep Indigenous women safe and free from violence (Statistics Canada, 2021).

Although the federal government has enacted the National Housing Strategy (NHS) and dedicated significant funding to expand housing, investment in the National Action Plan (NAP) has been limited to the Indigenous Shelter and Transition Housing Initiative (ISTHI). In BC, the province has also made significant investments in 2018 and 2023. In the 2018 *Homes for BC* initiative, the province dedicated funding to support 1,500 units for transition housing and in the 2023 *Homes for People* Initiative, has identified an additional 1,500 units under the Women's Transition Housing Fund (WTHF). The 2018 and 2023 WTHF did not offer an Indigenous funding stream, and as a result,



less than 5% of the 2018 WTHF was dedicated to For Indigenous, By Indigenous (FIBI) transition housing providers.

Investments in transition housing are welcomed; however, this housing model does not support all women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people who are fleeing and/or at risk to violence. For example, there are age limits for youth and barriers to those experiencing challenges with mental health or addictions. Since the National Inquiry links culturally safe housing and safety, we must broaden the scope of housing models needed to prevent and respond to violence. Only by broadening the housing response can we address the issues related to institutional inadequacy and failures and cyclical issues that increase the risk of violence, i.e., cyclical issues that increase the risk of violence, child apprehension and/or those that experience intergenerational trauma because of Residential Schools.

Addressing the housing crisis for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people requires a holistic, culturally informed approach that recognizes the deep-rooted impacts of colonialism and systemic discrimination. While government investments in housing have been made, these efforts have largely failed to incorporate Indigenous-led solutions that prioritize safety, cultural connection, and long-term stability. To ensure that housing policies effectively respond to the needs of Indigenous communities, it is essential to shift towards FIBI approaches that embed lived experience, self-determination, and reconciliation into housing frameworks. The following submission outlines AHMA's vision and actionable recommendations for creating safe, adequate, and culturally supportive housing for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people across BC.

AHMA's goal is to provide recommendations that prevent housing violations to vulnerable Indigenous communities that reside in urban, rural and northern communities across BC. As an umbrella organization with 55 members across BC's urban, rural and northern communities, AHMA can provide a unique snapshot of shared values as well as an overview of the needs, issues and barriers that AHMA members face. This submission offers an opportunity to share our lived experiences and expertise in maintaining and expanding culturally safe and supported housing solutions across BC's urban, rural and northern communities.

I. AHMA's vision for safe, adequate, and affordable housing for women, Two Spirit, Trans, and gender-diverse people

AHMA's vision is that Indigenous people in BC have an affordable, culturally supportive, and safe place to call home. In pursuit of this vision, AHMA works to promote and protect the housing rights of all Indigenous Peoples living in BC. AHMA's vision for culturally safe and affordable housing is rooted in a human rights-based approach, which incorporates the principles of non-discrimination, inclusion, participation and accountability into the framework. AHMA's vision was shaped by the voices of those with lived or living experience of inadequate housing and homelessness.

For Indigenous women, AHMA's vision is guided by the following principles:



1. **Inclusivity:** Ensuring housing supports all Indigenous women regardless of age, family size, sexual identity, disabilities, and health determinants.
2. **Reconciliation:** Housing policy and programs must support funding streams to address the impacts of intergenerational trauma caused by Residential Schools.
3. **Self-determination:** Housing policy and programs must be guided by lived experience and an Indigenous lens.
4. **Equity:** Housing policy must be based on proportional need.
5. **Flexibility:** Systems responses must support housing and programs that address the unique experience of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.
6. **Sustainability:** Ensure long-term funding programs that support a wide range of housing models that reflect the unique regional needs.
7. **Collaboration:** Ensure that For Indigenous By Indigenous (FIBI) approaches are embedded into all housing through ongoing capacity building that supports collaborations between all levels of government.
8. **Well-Being:** Housing that supports the wellbeing of all Indigenous women to have a good life.

II. Knowledge: What knowledge can be used to inform or support this vision?

AHMA's overarching vision is rooted in decades of experience supporting Indigenous peoples' access to FIBI housing. The housing programs developed by AHMA members directly respond to the cultural, social and economic needs of Indigenous women. Building innovative housing programs is a key element in supporting Indigenous women. For example, AHMA members provide Indigenous-led Supportive Housing, Transition Housing, and Complex Care Housing, all of which provide essential wraparound services that help women create healthy, sustainable lives.

AHMA's housing knowledge is built from extensive engagement with AHMA members and Indigenous tenants across BC's urban, rural, and remote communities. Through collaboration with committees, stakeholders, and allies, AHMA has identified housing gaps, and the resources needed to support the full spectrum of housing for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

Ongoing engagement, combined with FIBI data and evaluation metrics, has allowed AHMA to identify and assess housing needs across BC. The following reports outline housing targets and programs designed to address the housing needs of Indigenous people residing in BC's urban, rural and northern communities.

Provincial Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy

In 2022, AHMA released BC's first Indigenous-led [*Provincial Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy \(URNIHS\)*](#). This report outlines a 10-year strategy to address the housing needs of off-reserve Indigenous people in BC. The report reflects extensive engagement and input from existing Indigenous housing and service providers in BC and tenants, stakeholders, government agencies, and Indigenous organizations. The strategy includes thirteen strategic actions and an implementation plan identifying the funding, resources, and activities required to implement the strategic actions.



A key Strategic Action identified by the URNIHS is *Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls*. The strategy states that 594 units are required for second-stage housing for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people fleeing violence or who have been subjected to sexualized violence and exploitation. The details of this Strategic Action recommend that 33% of the needed 12,850 subsidized Indigenous-owned units be specifically targeted for women and children escaping violence.

Indigenous Women's Housing Report

Building on the URNIHS, AHMA is in the final stages of the *Indigenous Women's Housing Report*. Based on the preliminary findings, this report identifies how colonial practices, and the status quo have prevented vulnerable communities of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people from accessing culturally safe and affordable housing. The report also identifies that without a range of housing options, Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ are unable to flee violence and/or prevent and respond to the risk of violence.

To ensure the Indigenous Women's Housing Report was grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing, a Sub-Committee was formed, made up of FIBI housing organizations, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Indigenous advocates, and frontline support workers from six regions across BC. The Sub-Committee was selected based on their understanding of the importance of culturally safe and supportive housing for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people fleeing violence and/or at risk of violence. In addition to providing a regional Indigenous housing lens, the Sub-Committee also provided expertise on the impacts that federal and provincial policy and legislation have on expanding FIBI housing.

The report methodology employs three simultaneous processes to align the lived experience of Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people with data analysis.

1. Engaging with the Sub-Committee: Between October 2023 and April 2024, AHMA facilitated seven discussions. As a result of these discussions, the scope, methods, and recommendations for housing policy were made.
2. Review of Reclaiming Power and Place: The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. This review identified the gaps in housing and supported programs that contributed to the risk of violence for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.
3. Based on the priority populations, AHMA worked with SPARC BC to gather and evaluate quantitative data to determine the unmet housing needs for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Key learnings from the Indigenous Women's Housing Report include:

- The Sub-Committee identified five priority populations of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people that disproportionately experience violence. They include Indigenous girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people who: are currently in the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and/or aging out of MCFD; are fleeing violence and/or at risk of violence due to living in unsuitable and precarious housing; Indigenous seniors who are at



risk of homelessness and/or in Core Housing Need due to increased housing cost; have at least one form of diagnosed and/or undiagnosed disability; who are experiencing homelessness, in inadequate housing that threatens security and/or impacts health; and those that are experiencing homelessness, addictions and/or mental health challenges.

- Unmet housing need is amplified in some communities. All regions in BC have unmet housing need for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people; however, urban communities such as Vancouver, Kelowna, Vernon, Victoria, and remote communities in the northern regions such as Terrace and Kitimat have the greatest unmet need due to affordability.
- Indigenous women experience overlapping barriers to accessing housing. Barriers to housing identified by the Sub-Committee include racism, gender identity, sexual preferences, disability, history with corrections, family size, poverty, and health determinants, including mental health and addictions. Indigenous mothers who are on disability or social services also experience significant barriers to housing.
- Since Indigenous-led housing providers represent <5% of the total social and transition housing stock across BC, the Committee also noted that many non-Indigenous housing providers do not have culturally supported programs. Few non-Indigenous organizations mention reconciliation and/or mention policy in support of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in their strategic planning and/or programs. Although some larger organizations have Indigenous-led teams, there is very little representation across the Boards, management and staff.

III. Reason: Why is this vision important?

AHMA's vision supports For-Indigenous, By-Indigenous (FIBI) housing and service providers that respond to the unique needs of Indigenous people who reside in urban, rural and northern communities. This vision is crucial because it pursues an intersectional, gendered and trauma informed lens for housing for Indigenous people. AHMA also utilizes mechanisms that allow FIBI approaches in housing research, policy and strategic planning. These mechanisms support governments to fulfill the targets identified under the National Housing Strategy Act as well as BC's Declaration Act Action Plan.

The vision also inherently responds to international human rights law, which affirms the right to housing. Governments are obligated to implement housing policies and programs that focus on those in need. In Canada, the federal government enacted the National Housing Strategy Act in 2019 with the commitment to implement reasonable policies and programs aimed at ensuring the right to housing. It is also committing to eliminating homelessness in the shortest possible time. The legislation provides an opportunity to give affected groups a voice and input into policy.

AHMA maintains that despite the federal and provincial priorities to address housing, the most vulnerable continue to be disproportionately impacted by the financialization of housing. This issue is further compounded by the intergenerational trauma caused by Residential Schools, which manifests in health disparities, poverty, violence, and disconnection from cultural and community. Based on AHMA's work, it is clear that Indigenous housing is unique and requires Indigenous led programs and supports. The most effective programs and policies for addressing the lack of culturally safe and affordable housing is by developing housing programs through Indigenous-led



housing organizations. In doing so, policy responses can consider trauma-informed, historically rooted, culturally specific, and collaborative approaches that prevent housing violations for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

IV. Action: Strengthening the Call to Action - Pathways that Reduce Housing Violations against Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people

Despite the federal government's response to the Truth and Reconciliation's Calls to Action and the National Inquiry's relevant 231 Calls to Justice, the existing housing remedies that are meant to prevent and respond to violence against all Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people has not been informed by FIBI housing policy and research. Consequently, not all vulnerable communities have equal access to culturally safe and affordable housing and supports.

To realize the number of unmet housing units for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, AHMA requests the federal government:

1. **Endorse** AHMA's Provincial Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy (URNIHS) and the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association's Indigenous Caucus's *Urban Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy* (URN).

This would signal the expertise of FIBI housing authorities to develop and deliver housing programs that prevent and respond to violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

2. **Prioritize funding that advances FIBI housing research and policy** and embed findings into federal housing policy.
3. **Redirect funding to FIBI Housing organizations including the National Indigenous Collaborative Inc. (NICH)**, and Indigenous housing authorities like AHMA. This also includes fulfilling the federal government's commitment funding for NICH and amending bilateral agreements between the federal and provincial government to incorporate an Indigenous and gendered lens; and allow for Indigenous procurement strategies that respond to the issues and concerns identified by Indigenous housing authorities.

To achieve these priorities, the following recommendations include:

1. RIGHTS TO HOUSING FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN, GIRLS AND 2SLGBTQQIA+ PEOPLE

Housing organizations/providers, as well as governments across all levels, must be held accountable when housing is not maintained and/or is not safe for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. The Province of BC has an obligation under DRIPA, and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to ensure housing is accessible, adequate, safe, as well as culturally safe.

Mechanisms and processes within the government must also be established to measure and track violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people within unsuitable



housing models and programs. This work must take place in collaboration with organizations, allies, and stakeholders to ensure there are accountability mechanisms in place when Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people experience violence.

Recommendations

1. Work with the Executive Director of Reconciliation and Equity Strategies in the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) and the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (PSSG) to adopt an intersectional lens to ensure that funding programs can prevent and respond to violence across the housing continuum.
2. The BC government must establish housing targets and performance measurements that prioritize funding for Indigenous-led housing.
3. In collaboration with Indigenous and non-Indigenous stakeholders, establish accountability mechanisms and processes to measure and track violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people within housing models and programs.

2. FOR INDIGENOUS, BY INDIGENOUS RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

Currently, there is limited data available through existing processes across the housing and homelessness sector to help policy and decision-makers understand the needs of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people fleeing violence. Existing data collection processes, including Point in Time counts and shelter usage, grossly understate demand for services. Existing data collection processes are also siloed, and do not include an intersectional lens, making it difficult to document key pathways to homelessness across key systems of response. To improve data collection and support evidence-based housing models that prevent and respond to violence, governments must support Indigenous and non-Indigenous housing provider organizations to improve data sovereignty practices.

Recommendations:

1. HOUS, MIRR and PSSG to work with Indigenous organizations to co-develop methodologies that reflect and embed lived experience to ensure an intersectional lens is applied to data analysis and evaluation.
2. Ministries across government need to consider effective approaches to integrate Indigenous data points across key systems of response to understand issues and pathways that prevent and respond to violence. Research and evaluation must support data sovereignty practices.
3. Align housing research with recommendations from organizations including the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), Assembly of First Nations (AFN), BCAAFC, BC Union of Indian Chiefs, MMIWG, and the National Indigenous Housing Network. Support mechanisms that analyze the impacts of programs.



4. Statistics Canada and Infrastructure Canada must facilitate the collection of more comprehensive data that captures the diverse needs and experiences of people living in encampments, including women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.
5. Support Indigenous and non-Indigenous housing provider organizations in adopting and improving data sovereignty practices. This will allow Indigenous communities to control and manage data collection processes, ensuring that the data reflects the unique needs and experiences of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

3. INDIGENOUS PROCURMENT

To improve the effectiveness of existing housing and program models to prevent and respond to violence, governments across all levels need to establish procurement practices to support more Indigenous-led models. Current procurement practices across the BC have been largely unsuccessful in generating Indigenous-led models, especially those that include intersectional approaches. In part, this has to do with inflexible funding criteria and programmatic models; this deters Indigenous organizations from applying because they do not include holistic and culture-based support to keep Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people safely housed. In addition, Indigenous organizations do not have the internal expertise or capacity to apply to funds that become available.

Recommendations:

1. Work with BC Housing to ensure procurement practice embeds recommendations from the *What We Heard Report: Summary of Regional Engagement Sessions & Surveys* and AHMA's May 2023, and May 2024 *Procurement Submissions to BC Housing*.
2. Develop meaningful relationships with MIRR and HOUS to support procurement practices that prioritize and support the development of Indigenous led, culturally safe and supported housing models for all Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people fleeing violence and at risk of violence.
3. Work with BCH and/or HOUS and MIRR to embed FIBI mechanisms that identify housing needs for priority groups, including all vulnerable communities of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. To achieve this, AHMA recommends:
 - a. AHMA and BCH should work collaboratively to support ongoing capacity building and engagement of Indigenous housing providers in the context of procurement and development. This is a key priority considering the new capital investments identified in the provincial budget.
 - b. BCH to work with AHMA to support Indigenous-led procurement processes led by AHMA in alignment with *DRIPA*. This approach should be piloted as part of the second call for the off-reserve project of the IHF.
 - c. Ensure that all funding streams, including the Complex Care Fund (CHF), Supportive Housing Fund (SHF), and Women's Transition Housing Fund (WTF),



include specific allocations that support FIBI and address the housing targets set out in AHMA's URNIHS.

- d. Identify and eliminate barriers that prevent Indigenous organizations from participating in funding opportunities, such as complex application processes or lack of organizational capacity, and ensure these organizations have the tools and knowledge to succeed.
4. AHMA to work with MIRR and BCH and align with *DRIPA* with Gender-Based Violence Action Plan to ensure all forms of housing are embedded into systems responses that respond to the 231 Calls to Justice.
5. Track the interministerial priorities in relation to violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.
6. Work with the Ministry of Public Safety and Poverty Reduction and the Ministry of Finance to embed language that will support policy responses (including procurement practices) that aim to reduce poverty for Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.
7. Work with MCFD to develop policy responses (including procurement practices) that supports housing as a means of family reunification.

4. CULTURALLY SAFE AND SUPPORTED HOUSING MODELS

Culturally safe and trauma-informed approaches must be factored into program and policy responses. Existing funding streams and programs often do not include the wraparound supports required to keep Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people safe, particularly those with complex needs. Housing models dedicated to women fleeing violence need to move beyond transition and second-stage housing and include other options that can support those with high acuity, including youth, seniors, people with disabilities, and health implications.

Recommendations:

1. Expand on housing models that move beyond transition and second-stage housing and create frameworks to support vulnerable communities, including girls and youth, seniors and Elders, people with disabilities, and people with health challenges, including mental health and addictions.
2. Expand FIBI transition housing and Indigenous-owned and operated housing units that support the disproportionate needs of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.
3. Provide rent/affordability assistance for Indigenous households who have access to good market housing but cannot afford their rent or ownership housing costs.
4. Prioritize funding to support the Indigenous girls, youth, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people aging out of MCFD and Indigenous youth at risk of human trafficking.



5. Prioritize funding for supportive housing and complex care housing models that transition Indigenous women out of addictions, youth aging out of care, and Indigenous seniors and Elders living in unsuitable housing.
6. Ensure AHMA members who are supporting Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people have funding to sustain and improve existing units.
7. Promote collaboration among municipal agencies and community-based service providers to provide an integrated approach to meeting the needs of encampment residents and referring people to the available services.
8. Ensure that culturally safe and trauma-informed approaches are consistently factored into all housing programs and policy responses to better meet the needs of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+

Conclusion

Ensuring safe, adequate, and culturally supported housing for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people is a critical component of reconciliation, human rights, and addressing gender-based violence. AHMA's vision, rooted in a For-Indigenous, By-Indigenous approach, emphasizes the need to embed cultural safety, intersectionality, and lived/living experience into housing policy and program development.

Despite federal and provincial commitments to housing, Indigenous-led solutions remain underfunded and underrepresented, limiting access to safe and sustainable homes for those most at risk. The evidence presented underscores the urgent need to expand housing options beyond transition housing, address systemic barriers in procurement and funding, and implement accountability measures.

By strengthening Indigenous procurement, improving data sovereignty, and prioritizing culturally safe and trauma-informed housing models, governments and stakeholders can take meaningful steps toward ensuring that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people have access to housing that protects their safety, dignity, and well-being. AHMA remains committed to working alongside all levels of government, Indigenous housing providers, and community partners to create lasting, systemic change that upholds the right to housing and self-determination for Indigenous communities across BC.

References

- Bingham, B., Moniruzzaman, A., Patterson, M., Sareen, J., Distasio, J., O'Neil, J., Somers, J.M. (2019). Gender differences among Indigenous Canadians experiencing homelessness and mental illness. *BMC Psychology*, 7 (57), 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40359-019-0331-y>
- Klingspohn, D. M. (2018). The importance of culture in addressing domestic violence for First Nation's women. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 9, 1-7.



National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). (2019a). Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Vol. 1a. (The National Inquiry). [www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls \(MMIWG\)](http://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/National%20Inquiry%20into%20Missing%20and%20Murdered%20Indigenous%20Women%20and%20Girls%20(MMIWG),%202019), 2019.

Schwan, K., Versteegh, A., Perri, M., Caplan, R., Baig, K., Dej, E., Jenkinson, J., Brais, H., Eiboff, F., & Pahlevan Chaleshtari, T. (2020). The State of Women's Housing Need & Homelessness in Canada: A Literature Review. Hache, A., Nelson, A., Kratochvil, E., & Malenfant, J. (Eds). Toronto, ON: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press.

Statistics Canada. (2021). *Census in Brief Housing conditions among First Nations people, Métis and Inuit in Canada from the 2021 Census*. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa/98-200-x/2021007/98-200-x2021007-eng.pdf>



Appendix A: Additional AHMA Reports and Submissions

1. Path Forward Feedback Submission

On January 2023, AHMA submitted a Feedback Submission titled *Housing and Safety – Key Components to Safety Planning for the Path Forward* to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (MPSSG) and the Ministry of Attorney General (MAG). This submission highlights some of the key issues related to housing and safety for Indigenous women and girls in the context of *A Path Forward: Priorities and Early Strategies for B.C.* and subsequent status updates released in 2022⁵. (Please contact AHMA for a pdf copy)

2. AHMA's Procurement Submissions

Existing funding programs and procurement processes do not have an Indigenous and intersectional lens. This may lead to gaps in women-only shelter programs. To support the BC government, AHMA has provided three procurement submissions that provide recommendations for Indigenous procurement.

Procurement Practices at BC Housing and Indigenous Housing Providers – April 2023

In January 2023, AHMA was invited by BC Housing (BCH) to participate in regional sessions of the First Tier of the evaluation group for the Supported Rent Supplement Program (SRSP). Participating staff reviewed seventy-one applications in each of the five regions. AHMA identified several issues with the procurement process, which include inconsistent practices across regions, procurement processes that lack equity and advantage larger organizations, limited accountability and understanding of culture-based service delivery, and process that were not culturally safe. (Please contact AHMA for a pdf copy)

Decolonizing Procurement: AHMA and BC Housing Collaboration Proposal – May 2023

To ensure that FIBI projects are considered for funding for the Women's Transition Housing Fund (WTHF)⁷ under the 2023 *Homes for People Action Plan*, AHMA put together a plan that would enhance AHMA's role in the procurement process for the first phase of the WTHF. AHMA's involvement with the WTHF procurement process will be piloted as a potential model for future involvement in other procurement processes. (Please contact AHMA for a pdf copy)

Indigenous Procurement Initiative – Feedback on the Indigenous Procurement Report by Deloitte Consulting - June 2024 Deloitte Consulting Submission

This submission identified the need to apply the Indigenous Procurement Initiative to champion and prioritize actions that advance a range of Indigenous housing options for Indigenous people living in urban, rural and northern communities. AHMA has identified recommendations that address the current gaps in policy and funding for Indigenous procurement. (Please contact AHMA for a pdf copy)



Operations Member Needs Assessment

Between June 2022 and November 2023, AHMA engaged in a needs assessment process with member organizations. The needs assessment focused on understanding AHMA members' experiences providing housing and homelessness services, with a focus on operational needs related to providing holistic, trauma-informed and culturally supportive programs and services.

Link to report: <https://ahma-bc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Operations-Needs-Assessment.pdf>

3. Data and Evaluation Framework

The Indigenous Data and Evaluation Framework supports AHMA's long-term goal of For Indigenous, By Indigenous housing by improving awareness and capacity, advocating for data sovereignty, developing Indigenous-led approaches, and developing best practices for data governance and management.

Link to report: <https://ahma-bc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Data-and-Evaluation-Framework-Report.pdf>

4. Environmental Scan: Land-Based Healing

Indigenous land-based healing programs draw from diverse cultures, spiritual foundations, and relationships ingrained with profound wisdom in Indigenous healing practices. Direct funding for land-based healing initiatives led by Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers and organizations is imperative for better health outcomes and enhances culturally safe services for Indigenous people.

Link to report: <https://ahma-bc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Environmental-Scan-Land-Based-Healing-.pdf>

5. Lived experience & stories of extreme heat among Indigenous households in British Columbia

This report sought to address some of the barriers and knowledge gaps in responding to the inevitable impacts of climate change, such as extreme heat. This research project meaningfully engaged Indigenous non-profit housing providers and their lived experiences, challenges and priorities.

Link to report: <https://ahma-bc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Environmental-Scan-Land-Based-Healing-.pdf>

6. Exploring Inclusive Housing for Indigenous Peoples Living with Diverse Abilities: An Environmental Scan

AHMA's latest report examines the accessibility of housing supports and services for Indigenous Peoples with diverse abilities in BC. Findings reveal that Indigenous-led housing is essential to reducing the gaps, barriers, and challenges Indigenous Peoples with diverse abilities face. Current



systems increase the risk of the most vulnerable falling through the cracks and into a cycle of homelessness.

Link to report: <https://ahma-bc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/AHMA-ExploringInclusiveHousingforIndigenousPeopleswithDiverseAbilities.pdf>

7. BC Indigenous Homelessness Strategy

In response to the overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples among the unhoused shows that current processes and strategies are not adequately addressing or preventing homelessness for Indigenous communities. Given this overrepresentation, the BC Indigenous Homelessness Strategy offered recommendations to increase Indigenous engagement and integration of Indigenous perspectives at all stages of developing and implementing an Indigenous provincial strategy to address homelessness.

Link to reports: <https://ahma-bc.org/resource-centre/public-policy/https-ahma-bc-org-2022-08-bc-indigenous-homelessness-strategy-final/>

8. Indigenous Advisory House on Homelessness Innovative Examples of Projects and Programs Addressing Indigenous Homelessness

As a facilitator to the Indigenous Advisory House on Homelessness (IAH) members, AHMA collaborated to create this document at the request of the Ministry of Housing (HOUS) to provide tangible and innovative examples of programs addressing Indigenous homelessness. The IAH initial report to the BC Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs (HOUS) provides recommendations to help inform our collective actions. The submission is based on what we heard during member engagement in July and August 2024.

Link to Report: <https://ahma-bc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/IAH-Innovative-Examples.pdf>