



Volume 10 - Issue 1
Fall 2018

Aboriginal Housing Connection

AFNQL REGIONAL MEETING ON HOUSING AND FOLLOW-UP ON THE ENGAGEMENT ON THE REFORM OF HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The AFNQL's next regional meeting on housing will coincide this year again with the engagement on housing and infrastructure reform. As part of its commitment to improve housing for First Nation communities on reserve and as indicated in Budget 2016, the Government of Canada is engaging with First Nations and other partners to develop an effective long-term approach to support on-reserve housing, and to contribute to a broader National Housing Strategy.

Discussions will resume based on what was discussed last year in Trois-Rivières. Feedback was analyzed by the Tripartite Committee, which then proposed a Draft Regional Strategy on Housing and Infrastructure that was supported by the Chiefs-in-Assembly. An important part of the meeting will be devoted to discussing this draft.

Please note that the meeting will be held from November 27 to 29, 2018. As was the case last year, as the theme of the meeting is very broad (housing and infrastructure), it is likely that more than one representative per First Nation will be involved, in addition to the Chief or Councilor responsible for housing and infrastructure.



Assembly of
First Nations
Quebec-Labrador



Indigenous Services
Canada



BACKGROUND

Regional Tripartite Housing Committee – 2017-2018 Annual Report

This report is a summary of the Regional Tripartite Housing Committee’s activities (2017-2018), and of key orientations that will guide the Committee’s actions for 2018-2019.

The RTHC regroups representatives from the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). The Committee is, in its current form, since 2005. Its mission is to make recommendations to the respective authorities of the three parties for the purpose of promoting housing conditions of First Nations members.

The RTHC activities are governed by a framework which provides for the holding of at least 3 meetings per year. The Committee identifies regional issues and ensures their monitoring with an action plan that is approved at the beginning of the year. The Committee counts on partnership, dissemination of information to First Nations communities and organizations, exchanges of views and networking in order to advance the files of mutual concern.

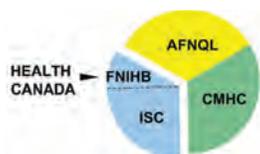
The Committee’s Action Plan was completely renewed. It is part of the Draft Regional Strategy, which itself stems from the engagement initiated in the context of housing and infrastructure reform. The Action Plan is made up of 3 axes that integrate all the issues of the previous plans:

1. More skills and capacities at all levels, with innovation;
2. More funds and more financing options, with innovation;
3. More First Nations autonomy, with innovation.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017-2018

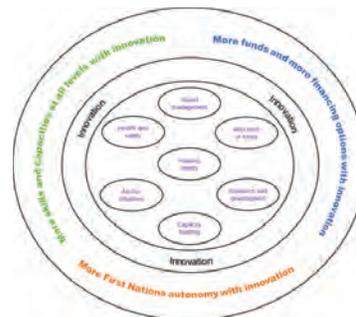
Regular Activities

- Implementation of the Action Plan for 2017-2018
- Publication of the *Aboriginal Housing Connection Newsletter*, Vol. 9, No. 1
- Important information posted by the Committee on the AFNQL’s website and dissemination to First Nations communities and organizations
- Collaboration in the joint organization and holding of the engagement session on housing and infrastructure
- Integration of Health Canada (FNIHB) into the activities of the Committee



Support Activities

- Renewal of the Action Plan to align it with the Draft Regional Housing and Infrastructure Strategy



Strategic Actions

- Concerted strategy to develop a Draft Regional Strategy for Housing and Infrastructure following the Engagement Session
- Concerted strategy to encourage the return of inspection services to tribal councils in the region
- Meeting with ISC Deputy Minister: issues and key messages
- Concerted strategy to raise the awareness of ISC Headquarters’ Community Infrastructure Branch on the activities of the RTHC and to present the ABSCAN strategic model

Collaboration with Organizations

- Partnership with the First Nations Adult Education School Council (FNAESC) to implement a training program for housing managers and a community of practice on housing
- Partnership with tribal councils in the materialization of the pilot project for a housing technical resource group (HTRG)
- Partnership to support regional housing tables
- Partnership to collaborate with ABSCAN in the implementation of its strategic model



KEY ORIENTATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2018-2019

Beyond regular activities, the RTCH will undertake the following actions in 2018-2019:

Implementation of the Regional Housing and Infrastructure Strategy Development Phase

Three major activities will be initiated during the year:

- Development of a capacity development initiative;
- Financial and economic analysis (moderns financing tools, partnerships, catch-up project (on and off-community), economic benefits);
- Institutional development options analysis.

<p>More skills and capacities at all levels with innovation</p>	<p>More funds and more financing options with innovation</p>	<p>More First Nations autonomy with innovation</p>
--	---	---

The Committee will work together to define and monitor mandates. He will report to its authorities and keep First Nations informed throughout the process.

Implementation of the Programs Related to the 2018 Federal Budget

Collaboration in the implementation of the programs related to the funds for housing from the 2018 federal budget is intended to ensure that information is shared with First Nations and organizations. There is also a need to prepare the ground for possible reallocation of national funds. Such reallocations have taken place in the past, and the region has been able to benefit from it because of, among other things, a well-established Action Plan.



Chapter 3-Reconciliation millions of dollars	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	Total
3.1 Achieving Better Results for Indigenous Peoples										
Ensuring that Indigenous Children Are Safe and Supported within Their Communities	20	250	230	280	250	230	210	210	210	1,690
Child and Safe Drinking Water in Reserve	0	150	140	21	21	21	21	21	21	538
Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program	0	40	33	33	36	36	36	36	36	447
First Nations Economic Development Fund	0	10	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	206
Support for Indigenous-Based Housing Developments	0	205	205	201	161	161	161	161	161	1,544
Indigenous Family Support Fund	0	200	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	1,400
Indigenous Family Support	0	400	400	280	212	162	162	162	162	1,883
Supporting More Native Peoples to Increase Health Support for Survivors of Past Residential Schools and Their Families	0	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	260
Supporting the Care of Graves & Charismatic Land	0	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	45
Creating a More Responsive Health Services Program that Addresses the Needs of First Nations Communities	0	43	44	42	42	42	42	42	42	347
Supporting Indigenous History and Heritage	0	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	94
Indigenous Sport	0	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	94
Supporting the Assessment of the First Nations Land Management Act and the Successful Participation of First Nations under the Act	0	10	21	26	27	27	27	27	27	183
Allowing the Multinational Trade Review Implementation Support Program	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.1 Achieving Better Results for Indigenous Peoples Total	20	1,023	1,023	752	629	587	587	587	587	4,584

Continuation of Initiatives Already Embarked Upon

Continued partnership with the organizations that are involved in the implementation of projects related to capacity building in housing of First Nation members.

- Training program for housing managers (attestation of collegial studies) and implementation of a community of practice in housing
- Pilot project for a housing technical resource group (HTRG)
- Regional housing tables
- Review of the terms and conditions of the Ministerial Loan Guarantees Program to make them accessible to ABSCAN
- Lot development trust fund administered by ABSCAN

The Committee will finish preparing complementary tools on the communication strategy. The tools will be implemented throughout the year.

Strategic Watch

The RTHC remains on the lookout for any development related to issues that might be of interest for the region, and will make any necessary recommendations (i.e.: technical services provided on reserve, reform of the housing program, reallocation of funds under the 2018 budget).

This report was adopted by the coordinating members of the RTHC on may 30, 2018.

Documents produced by the RTHC are available on-line at the following address:

<http://www.apnql-afnql.com/en/dossiers/logement-schl.php>



**2018-2019
CMHC Renovation allocation**

Odanak	\$20,000
Wolinak	\$20,000
Abitibiwinni	\$20,000
Kebaoek	\$20,000
Kitigan Zibi	\$40,000
Lac Simon	\$20,000
Long Point FN	\$20,000
Timiskaming	\$20,000
Manawan	\$20,000
Opitciwan	\$20,000
Wemotaci	\$20,000
Wendake	\$40,000
Gesgapegiag	\$20,000
Listuguj	\$40,000
Kahnawake	\$160,000
Kanesatake	\$40,000
Ekuanitshit	\$20,000
Essipit	\$20,000
Mashteuiatsh	\$40,000
Matimekush	\$20,000
Natashquan	\$20,000
Pakua Shipi	\$20,000
Pessamit	\$40,000
Uashat	\$40,000
Unamen Shipu	\$20,000
Kawawachikamach	\$20,000
Crees (9 communities)	\$228,000
	\$1,028,000

BACK TO THE SEPTEMBER 2017 ENGAGEMENT SESSION

First Nations of Quebec housing and infrastructure stakeholders (elected officials, technicians and administrators) were invited to and participated in great numbers in the Engagement Session held in Trois-Rivières from September 26th to the 28th, 2017. Organized by the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL) and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), the session was intended to stimulate a discussion with First Nations on the reform’s suitable guidelines.

The Engagement Session’s facilitator’s report (*Innovation Seven*) refers to over 1000 data points collected throughout the 3-day event. The participants provided information through a series of questions aimed at collecting their opinion in terms of the reform’s potential orientations. The report includes recommendations and identifies steps towards implementation.

Engagement Session Participation



Engagement Session Key Points

The findings below emerged during discussions held with the participants.

Skills and Capacities

- Training for political decision-makers, executives, owners and members.
- Challenges with regards to language, which are perceived as obstacles.
- Institutions must be regional rather than national.
- The organization should have the capacity of handing out certifications.
- Housing managers are overstretched in the variety of their tasks.

A deeper analysis of answers also shed light on the fact that First Nations face challenges with developing their capacities, that management and maintenance are key skills to be prioritized and, it should be at the regional level that an eventual support organization should be developed in terms of capacity building.



Funding and Finance

- Access to funding tools and capital that impose no restriction to First Nations (ex. ABSCAN).
- Elimination of Ministerial Loan Guarantees.
- More funding is required.
- Funding by province.
- Sharing resource revenues.

Upon deeper analysis of the answers, it was revealed that First Nations want significant changes in housing and infrastructure in terms of policies and programs, primarily more funding options as well as long term commitment from the government and new partners.

Governance and Delivery

- Not replacing bureaucracy with more bureaucracy.
- Separating politics and the administration.
- Collaboration / networking / resource sharing / overcoming isolation.
- Funding allocation is a difficult issue.
- Reluctance in being too hasty with the process. Implementing a process that leads to a solution from the community level upwards.

Further revelations show that governance directly relies on standardizing approaches, tools and models. The development of new programs and options, planning, management support and networking are areas of responsibilities favoured by First Nations organizations. Expectations with regards to funding (more options, more funds) were equally clearly expressed under this theme.

Innovation

- Increasing individual responsibilities.
- Additional funding options (obligations, revolving loan funds, personal equity, loans, etc.).
- Demographic considerations in creating appropriate housing that meets the lifestyle of residents in the homes.
- Significant increase and commitment with respect to long term funding to support revitalization of housing.
- Mentoring and options for youth and all members for active participation in developing new units, including construction, operation and management of these new community assets.

Additionally, answers also highlighted innovation as a factor that must be omnipresent in all aspects of the housing and infrastructure reform. Accordingly, a new way of doing things and innovative approaches that venture off the beaten path should directly apply to the preferences underlined by First Nations in terms of capacity building, funding / financial management and governance / provision of services.

2018-2019 CMHC Section 95 allocation	
	Lifetime costs
Listuguj	\$293,750
Gesgapegiag	\$146,875
Long Point FN	\$293,750
Lac Simon	\$734,376
Timiskaming	\$161,635
Kanesatake	\$132,786
Kahnawake	\$663,930
Mashteuiatsh	\$293,750
Wemotaci	\$440,625
Opitciwan	1,293,081
Manawan	\$881,251
Uashat	\$734,376
Essipit	\$293,750
Ekuanitshit	\$146,875
Unamen Shipu	\$728,445
Pessamit	\$1,028,126
Pakua Shipi	\$242,815
Kawawachikamach	\$538,800
Crees (9 communities)	\$4,310,400
	\$13,359,396



STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS AND DRAFT REGIONAL STRATEGY

The region's expectations related to the housing and infrastructure reform framework can be summarized as follows:

Skills and capacities	More skills and capacities at all levels with innovation
Funding and finance	More funds and more financing options with innovation
Governance and delivery	More First Nations autonomy with innovation

Figure 1: Draft Regional Strategy for Housing and Infrastructure – Logic Model

