

# **Tripartite Regional Committee on Housing**

## **Chronology of Achievements**

*Revised Version 2011*

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The Tripartite Regional Committee on Housing (TRCH) regroups representatives of the First Nations, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). The Committee replaced the Regional Liaison Committee on Housing, which was created in 1985, and whose responsibility was mainly to look after the social housing program and appropriations. Important changes in policy have taken place since then.

### **1- Steps Which Lead to the Creation of the TRCH**

- 1985 Establishment of a Regional Liaison Housing Committee. At the time, the mandate was linked almost exclusively to the delivery of the social housing program (allocations, commitments, re-allocations).
- 1996 Extension of the Committee's mandate brought on by the implementation of the new AANDC (DIAND at the time) Housing Policy. The representativeness is broadened and directed towards the inclusion all the First Nations. The mandate now includes issues, such as insurances, bulk purchases, rental collection, maintenance, etc.
- 1999 The Committee hosts a first Regional symposium on First Nations housing. This annual event is meant to share information and to "network". The representativeness within the Committee is reduced to one person per nation in order to streamline the cycle of the Committee meetings.
- 2005 Recognizing the needs of the First Nations in housing, the three parties decide to hold a tripartite think tank session. The session contributed to a common and mutual understanding of the needs. Solution paths are identified to meet the needs of an emerging demand in housing. It becomes an opportunity to build stronger networks. The need to revise the structure and the mandate of the Regional Liaison Housing Committee is evoked.

In the course of the implementation of the Housing Initiative announced in the 2005 Federal Budget and of the modifications brought to the national formula of the budget allocation of CMHC's key programs, the three parties organize a special conference on housing for the First Nations. Aside from the dissemination of information, the meeting is an opportunity for the First Nations representatives to express their views, ask questions and debate ideas expressed at the tripartite think tank session. The participants agree to revise the mandate, the structure and the operational mode of the Regional Liaison Housing Committee.

The Regional Liaison Housing Committee becomes the TRCH. As it stands, one person in authority from each of the three organizations sits permanently on the Committee. The TRCH is mandated to submit recommendations to the respective authorities of the three parties (AFNQL, AANDC, CMHC), with the goal, among others, to promote the upgrading of the First Nations' housing conditions.

## 2- Main Achievements of the TRCH since 2005

The achievements are classified in five categories which correspond to the goals pursued in accordance with the mission of the TRCH.

### Goal : **Set up and Implement an Action Plan in Housing**

Achievement⇒ Follow up on an action plan, whose main targets of intervention are established in accordance with the challenges encountered in the communities:

- health/security-safety;
- portfolio management;
- housing needs;
- housing Initiative;
- funding allocation;
- follow up on commitments taken at the Socioeconomic Forum;
- capacity development;
- research and development.

### Goal : **Establish and implement intervention strategies capable of bringing answers to the challenges encountered in the communities**

Achievement⇒ Creation of working groups mandated to explore and take a close look at specific issues associated to the challenges:

- Identification of creative projects to be developed with the budget set aside to this end at the Socioeconomic Forum, and follow-up on the development of these projects:
  - Options for a housing program under FN control;
  - Tools and software for a sound management of residential construction projects;
  - Costs/profits study of residential intensification in First Nations communities.
- Drafting of a five-year plan for the funding of First Nations housing needs, with the proposal of a creative approach;
- Follow-up on the punctual initiatives (2005 Housing Initiative, 2008 Regional Housing Approach and 2009-2011 Canada Economic Action Plan) and determination of arguments favorable to the appropriation of additional funds from the head offices of AANDC and CMHC;
- Report on the effect of Canada Economic Action Plan (housing) in First Nations communities to the head offices of AANDC and CMHC;
- Analysis, by AANDC and CMHC, of the current funding allocation formula and proposal of adjustments to harmonize it to the needs;

- Production of a guide that describes the national and regional funding allocation processes of AANDC and CMHC's housing programs;
- Status of the housing management situation in the communities;
- Multipartite collaboration (FNQLHSSC, Health Canada, AANDC and CMHC) to address the difficulties affecting the health and the security. Production of reference guide on mold prevention.

Goal : **Promote Exchanges and Networking through Various Channels and Communication or "Networking" Tools**

Achievement⇒ Collaboration in the planning and organization of an annual event (symposium, forum, or other) gathering the contributors in housing. These regional housing meetings constitute for the members of the First Nations, a means to get information on housing (national background, recent developments, sharing of the best managerial practices and in the technical area) and also to express their viewpoint and their needs. These meetings are also a medium to exchange and "network".

- ⇒ Allow the representatives of the FN who wish to communicate directly with the TRCH, to have the opportunity to be heard at TRCH meetings, upon request.

Goal : **Promote Partnerships in Files of Mutual Interest**

Achievement⇒ Coordination of the interventions of AANDC and CMHC in housing

- ⇒ Representations are more frequent and more sustained with the central agencies (AFN, INAC, CMHC, national associations, etc.).

Goal : **Disseminate the Information to all the Communities and Organizations**

Achievement⇒ Transmission of Minutes of the TRCH meetings

- ⇒ Publication of *L'Écho de l'habitation autochtone*. The bulletin takes stock of the situation on the actions and strategies recommended by the CMHC. It is also a tool to disseminate, from time to time, certain information on topical subjects, such as training for personnel, the First Nations Market Housing Fund, the assessment of the 2005 Housing Initiative, the effect of Canada Economic Action Plan (housing) in First Nations communities etc.
- ⇒ On-line access to the information of the TRCH, via the Website of the AFNQL