

# Regional Tripartite Housing Committee (RTHC)

## Minutes of the meeting

### Meeting of 16 September 2019

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Attendees : Lance Haymond, APNQL      Bruce Labrador, SAC  
              André Dansereau, SAC        François Sauvageau, SCHL  
              Guy Latouche, APNQL        Jean-François Samuel, SCHL  
              Pierre Bélanger, SCHL        Rita Arseneau, SAC  
              Oumar Ba, SAC (DGSPNI)

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Moderator: André Dansereau

#### Summary of actions

Action 1: Chronology of Achievements of the RTCH document to be updated.

Action 2: "Skills and Capacity Building" axis proposal to be reviewed by the RTHC-OC

Action 3: ISC will contact Mr. Michel Blondin for a conference call with the RTHC to learn more.

#### 1. Welcome and introduction (reading and adoption of the agenda)

Bruce Labrador welcomed everyone. The agenda was accepted.

#### 2. Follow-up of the actions of the last meeting (June 2019)

Action 1: Add the "DeepDive" meeting in Quebec City and the meeting with the Deputy Minister in Wendake to the 2018-2019 Annual Report. [Realized](#)

Action 2: Receipt of a proposal from the CSPNEA for the implementation of the "Skills and capacity Building" axis. [Realized](#)

Action 3: Presentation of the update of the RTHC page on the AFNQL website. [Realized](#)

Action 4: Presentation of the CoPH "Workplace" exchange platform. [Realized](#)

Action 5: Production of the next edition of the "Aboriginal Housing Connection" for the fall of 2019. [In progress](#)

Action 6: CMHC and ISC representatives have been identified and confirmed to participate in the multi-stakeholder committee with NRCC and other partners. [Realized](#)

#### 3. National and regional environments

##### AFNQL

Study on the housing needs of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador.

- The update of the AFNQL needs study is progressing as planned. Data collection is complete. A preliminary summary table is provided by Guy L. for information purposes pending the final analyses.
- The RTHC acknowledges the AFNQL's work in data collection and thanks the First Nations for their collaboration and contribution with 100% community participation.

##### AFN National Housing Needs Assessment

- This year, the AFN began the first national data collection on housing needs. This approach, based in particular on the AFNQL needs study, was carried out across the country with a participation rate of 65% of First Nations communities.
- Guy L. presented all the data that will be available via the survey for this exercise.

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---

#### RTHC website hosted under the AFNQL website

- The update of the RTHC page, following the redesign of the AFNQL site, is almost completed. The integration of an "Archives" section and the updating of the document entitled "Chronology of Achievements of the RTCH" are the next steps to be taken.

Action 1: Chronology of Achievements of the RTCH document to be updated.

#### Partnership

- The Unifor union wants to get involved in a significant project in a community in Quebec. This involvement could take the form of a financial contribution and an in-kind contribution (labour). Drinking water and housing are part of a set of essential infrastructures for which there are tangible needs among the First Nations of Quebec. It was suggested to start with a discussion with the Operational Committee, followed by a meeting with the Regional Tripartite Committee on Housing.

#### **CMHC**

##### Organizational structure

- Significant operational changes took place this summer. Activities related to the various files with Aboriginal communities are now shared among several work teams. The First Nations Housing team is now also responsible for off-reserve clients. In addition to First Nations clients, Inuit and Métis are now also targeted. CMHC is currently in a transition and running-in period in its service delivery.

##### Budgets 2019-2020

- The year 2019-2020 is marked by a return to the core budgets of regular programs.
- Following the submission of a business plan to the National Office (regional pressures and needs), the budget for the capacity development program was only slightly reduced this year and will now total \$426K. Renovation allocations will be lower this year at \$780K compared to last year's \$1M budget.

##### National Housing Strategy

- To date, at the national level, 19 applications for "Seed funding" and 31 applications for the co-investment programme have been selected for financial assistance.
- Of these requests, 3 are from communities in the Quebec region. 6 requests from the region are reportedly pending.

##### SÉDAC

- CMHC has signed an agreement with ABSCAN under the Innovation Program to support them in their Housing Loan Fund project. A loan agreement was signed for an amount of \$7M.

##### Ministerial Loan Guarantee (MLG)

- The CMHC National Office is currently exploring new avenues for MLG-free loans not only for Article 95 but also for projects submitted under the National Housing Strategy

**Regional Tripartite Housing Committee (RTHC)**  
**Minutes of the meeting**  
**Meeting of 16 September 2019**

---

**ISC**

Change in the Community Infrastructure Directorate

- The environment team from the Quebec Regional Office (QRO) joined the Directorate.
- The name of the Directorate is now: The Infrastructure, Environment & Emergency Management Directorate (IEEMD).

Infrastructure projects

- Following the amendment to the Environment Act (effective 28 August 2019), all infrastructure projects on reserve are now required to post a minimum period of 30 days on the SAC website before they can be implemented.
- However, an exclusion list will be published shortly. An audit will be conducted to see if this change applies to housing projects.

National Infrastructure Meeting ISC

- On September 25 and 26, the QRO will host headquarters and regional offices for an annual meeting of infrastructure directors. The housing issue will also be on the agenda.

Bidding policy for projects on reserve

- First Nations are required to apply the tendering policy requirements for major infrastructure projects (\$500K and over). However, housing projects are not subject to it.

Presentation to the Federal Interdepartmental Table

- A presentation was made on the current status of Aboriginal housing at the regional and national levels.

Emergency management

- Two communities were affected by flooding last spring (Listuguj and Kanesatake). Emergency measures and recovery responses in their housing stock have been implemented.

Ministerial Loan Guarantees (MLOs)

- Work continues on the issue of opening access to GEMs as lenders to First Nations financial organizations.

Relocation of the Quebec Regional Office

- The call for proposals for a new lease for the QRO has closed and the QRO will remain at the current address. An office redesign will take place by February 2022 which could lead to temporary relocations (within or near the building) but will not cause any change to our services.

**Regional Tripartite Housing Committee (RTHC)**  
**Minutes of the meeting**  
**Meeting of 16 September 2019**

---

**4. Follow-up - Action Plan**

- The draft strategy for the "Skills and Capacity Building" axis will be presented to the September Assembly of Chiefs for validation and support.
- The RTHC Operational Committee (RTHC-OC) will review the proposal to implement the draft strategy for the "Skills and Capacity Building" axis of the RTHC for recommendation to the RTHC Steering Committee.
- ISC presented a summary monitoring table as an update on the progress of the Housing Initiative in Budget 2018 (2019-2021). Analyses continue for the last two components (4. Capacity development and 5. Innovation).

Action 2: "Skills and Capacity Building" axis proposal to be reviewed by the RTHC-OC.

**5. Draft Regional Strategy - Monitoring Finance and Financing Axis**

Mr. Steve Laveau and Mr. Dominique Collin presented the progress of the work of the "Finance and Financing" axis.

- Work and studies on disincentives to access to private property are underway and are prioritized.
- In this axis, observations and analyses show that there is no single formula for all communities.
- However, it is unanimous that changes will have to be made to the way things are done.
- The final report will include recommendations based on good practices.
- The final report is expected to be tabled towards the end of the fiscal year.

Ms. Josée-Ann Paradis, Deputy Director General of the QRO, attended the presentation and participated in the discussions with the partners.

**6. Presentation of the "Workplace" platform, a communication tool of the Community of Practice in Housing (CoPH)**

Mr. Patrick Robertson, coordinator of the CoPH, came to demonstrate the "Workplace" platform for a better understanding of the tool and thereby introduced the housing community of practice (participation, exchanges & sharing, added value, etc.).

The RTHC acknowledges the importance of this community and the positive impact it has on networking, but also on building skills and capacity and sharing good practices.

**7. Report of the Housing DeepDive of the Private Council Office (PCO)**

- The RTHC-CO outlines the report.
- The content of the report is mainly related to the delivery of services and internal processes of federal actors working in the on-reserve housing sector (ISC-SCHL).
- A short, medium and long-term action plan will be developed in the coming months. Mr. Michel Blondin will be responsible for the file at headquarters.

Action 3: ISC will contact Mr. Michel Blondin for a conference call with the RTHC to learn more.

**Regional Tripartite Housing Committee (RTHC)**  
**Minutes of the meeting**  
**Meeting of 16 September 2019**

---

**8. AFNQL Annual Housing Meeting**

- The annual meeting is scheduled for November 26-28, 2019. It will be held in the Quebec City area but the location has yet to be determined.
- Some topics are proposed for the agenda. The Operational Committee will hold a conference call specifically to set the agenda.

**9. Next meeting**

The next RTHC meeting will be organized by the AFNQL in Wendake on January 21 and 22, 2020.

Prepared by: André Dansereau / Rita Arseneau / Bruce Labrador  
November 20, 2019