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Regional meeting on housing

Minutes

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

Virtual meeting

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(You will find the list of participants in Appendix 1).

THE MEETING STARTS AT 8:30 A.M.

Tanu Lusignan and Patrick Robertson welcomed everyone from the housing and infrastructure office of the community of Mashteuiatsh. They gave some details on the progress of this virtual meeting (zoom) while specifying certain technical aspects and read the agenda.

OPENING

CHIEF LANCE HAYMOND, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HOUSING FILE FOR THE ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS QUEBEC-LABRADOR

Patrick Robertson asked Guy Latouche to make the opening remarks, replacing Chief Lance Haymond who could not attend.

Guy Latouche transmitted the message of Chief Lance Haymond from Kebaowek, who is the AFNQL's Housing and Infrastructure portfolio holder and who also acts as Vice-Chair of the National Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure (AFN).

Chief Haymond's message mentions that the situation of Covid-19 has meant that we have not been able to meet face-to-face for the past two years. This meeting is an opportunity to exchange relevant information. He is confident that we will be able to meet face-to-face next September.

These meetings are important for all of us and our partners because of the information shared, and mentioned it is an opportunity to ask questions and share best practices in the field. He underlines the fact that the Government of Canada is gradually transferring this file to Indigenous organizations. Our region is involved in this process at our own pace, and we must prepare ourselves accordingly. This transfer will be for the benefit of the communities if that is their wish. We have our own regional strategy, and we will keep you informed of the progress of this strategy later in the day. You must inform us of your aspirations for the region. The needs of the region are growing, and we need to look at new ways of doing things, hence the importance of best practices. We need to adapt, but it will be easier if we learn from what works best for us. We need to innovate while working with limited budgets.

On that note, I would like to share with you some concerns regarding the significant increases in construction costs and materials that have resulted from the events of the past two years. This has made it difficult to meet the budgets for our construction projects. We are entering a period where the federal government is injecting significant additional funds for First Nations housing. However, the current context presents certain challenges.

He acknowledged the presence of elected officials as well as managers in the field and says he is pleased with the great interest generated by this issue. In closing, he acknowledged the participation and good work of the regional tripartite committee as well as the AFNQL employees, who are a good example of the excellent work that is being done in our region and who have done everything possible to prepare for this meeting. He also mentioned the good work of the School Board who accepted to facilitate this meeting, as well as Indigenous Services Canada for their participation. He wished everyone a great meeting.

Patrick Robertson mentions the importance of uniting our thoughts with the communities affected by the recent weather.

He then invited the Regional Chief, Ghislain Picard, to come and say a few words.

WORD FROM THE REGIONAL CHIEF

The Regional Chief greeted the facilitators and participants. He thanked Guy Latouche for having transmitted the message of Chief Haymond, whose contribution is very valuable within the AFNQL for his involvement in housing issues for many years. He also mentioned his involvement in the issue of police services. He emphasized the involvement and close participation of the Tripartite Committee (AFNQL, CMHC, ISC), and mentioned that several important issues will be dealt with today.

The Regional Chief underlines the crying needs in housing and informs about the upcoming Chiefs' lobby in Ottawa over a period of two days, with the participation of 16 Chiefs from our region. Housing will be on the agenda, and we will be meeting with as many Ministers as possible. A meeting with the Auditor General is also planned. This is a new exercise for our Chiefs. It will be very important.

Despite the fact that progress has been made in Quebec with the Tripartite Committee and a housing stock of 15,000 units, it is estimated that an additional 10,000 units would be required to meet the needs, in addition to the renovation needs (minor or major) for another 8,000 units. He underlines all the work accomplished over the years by the Tripartite Committee while emphasizing the very good collaboration that exists, despite the budgetary limitations. The federal budget has increased the room for manoeuvre regarding this issue, but it is not enough to meet the needs. The Regional Chief talked about the climate and the emergency measures that we will undoubtedly have to deal with more and more in the future.

He underlined the contribution and expertise of the local representatives, while wishing a face-to-face meeting soon. He thanked Chief Haymond and Guy Latouche for their involvement over the years and wished everyone a good meeting.

Patrick Robertson spoke again and thanked Chief Picard. He spoke about the regional face-to-face meeting scheduled for the end of September.

Tanu mentioned some of the challenges presented by the pandemic and emphasized the perseverance of all. He emphasized the importance of housing in the well-being of Indigenous families. He then introduced Guy Latouche who will provide an update of the issue on behalf of the AFNQL.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL UPDATE GUY LATOUCHE, ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS QUEBEC-LABRADOR

The presentation will be in three parts: a regional update (including a snapshot since 2000), a national update, and a presentation of the various issues.

Guy Latouche began his presentation by highlighting the 100% participation rate for the Quebec region in the collection of data on housing needs, compared to other regions. The needs of the communities will be contained in a separate report for each community and a regional report. He then gave an overview of the different needs.

He presented the mandate of the Tripartite Committee, which has been in place since 2005, and the recent two-year action plan (2021-2023), which aims to improve the resilience of communities in terms of housing. It outlines three main areas of focus which are: capacity building, funding diversification, and governance and service delivery. These three axes are the pillars of the regional strategy. Guy mentioned some of the achievements of the Tripartite Committee.

Regarding the Regional Strategy, he looked at the stage of implementation and the results sought. We are currently in phase 2 of the development stage of the "financing" axis, and the importance of this issue is being felt. A transformation will be necessary, and we are considering the implementation of a center of expertise so that First Nations are in control of the housing file. On the third axis, we are looking at a ten-year transition in terms of taking over the file at a pace that each First Nation is comfortable with.

Nationally, an additional \$3 billion in investments are planned over five years beginning this year. These investments are for community-based housing. An amount of \$300 million is planned for urban, rural, and northern housing. Finally, an amount of \$2 billion is earmarked for children's housing needs (details to come). He briefly reviewed comparisons

with previous commitments since 2005 and highlighted the overlap in additional funding since 2021.

At the upcoming Annual General Assembly in July, the Chiefs intend to reactivate their position on predictable funding to close the funding gap. The Chiefs will insist on First Nations participation in the development of the Indigenous Off-Community Strategy. An action plan on homelessness will be presented.

With respect to persistent housing issues, the following were noted: overcrowding, vulnerability (caused by the pandemic), growing needs, underfunding, increasing construction costs, supply difficulties, the reality of remote regions, capacity at all levels (human resources, infrastructure, land), access to individual ownership that is underdeveloped, and difficult to implement in some communities. With that, he concluded his presentation.

Tanu Lusignan and Patrick Robertson provided an overview of the presentation and invited questions from participants.

Suzie Nepton (FNQLHSSC): What link will be made with the letter sent by ISC to the communities on May 11, on the issue of infrastructure planning (letter sent to the communities to state their infrastructure needs)? I understand that the communities have until June 30, 2022, to report on their infrastructure needs. Guy talked earlier about new funds that are coming (child and family). Is the whole housing issue included in that? I would like to understand how this will happen.

Guy Latouche (AFNQL): When we read the ISC letter, it talks about including housing. The housing needs of the communities over the next five years are well identified in terms of construction, renovation and, in some cases, decontamination, and then the related infrastructure. This is already well indicated and makes up part of their needs over the next five years. The exercise requested by ISC is one of reflection by the communities, to develop a good list of needs for ISC. Is there anything our partners would like to add?

André Dansereau (ISC): This is an exercise coming from the infrastructure side, and it is pan-Canadian. It is ISC that wants to have a list of the major needs of everyone, nationally and regionally. In Quebec, we are ahead of the curve on this issue. But it's about going beyond housing and related infrastructure. The budget envelopes will not necessarily follow from this. It's a rough exercise that is done over a short period of time. We are in the very early stages and your input is very important to reflect our reality in terms of related infrastructure. It is true that it is a short exercise. We had thought of doing it in the

form of interviews. I strongly invite you to participate to have a global picture in Canada and by region.

Nathalie Spénard (ISC): If I may add to that, we are currently in the process of completing the information gathering tools. Over the next few weeks, each community will receive an invitation to participate in an interview. Then, as André said, it's a matter of collecting data to allow us to paint a rough picture and cover the infrastructure needs that are not eligible for funding. You should hear more about this in the coming weeks and your participation is essential.

André Dansereau (ISC): Please feel free to ask us questions. The whole team is not here today, as this meeting was mainly about housing, but we will pass on your questions.

Patrick thanked the speakers and gave the floor to Martine Bruneau for the next question.

Martine Bruneau (Abitibiwinni): I have some questions. For the study of the needs (inventory of the housing stock), what is the use of our capital plan, our projections that we make and that we send to SAC (update of the housing needs)? This data is not used to do the inventory that you need.

Guy Latouche (AFNQL): For this first question, two things. First, when we draw up the list of housing needs, we start with the basic departmental data. We go and get the famous report whose number I forget, we enter everything in a form, we go and get the population on and off reserve according to the Indian registry, and then we get back to you, to validate this data with you. We correct it if necessary. So, we use that for the housing needs study. And then when you talk about the capital plan for the Abitibiwinni First Nation, the housing needs as identified are reported as is and updated. So, it serves both of those purposes.

Martine Bruneau (Abitibiwinni): Will we be able to count on financial support to draw up this inventory?

André Dansereau (ISC): I cannot answer your question, but I will take note of it and forward it to the team that is working on this issue. From what I understand, it will be limited to the interview only. There will be no need for an inventory or to go into detail. It's just to share your building and infrastructure needs. It's comprehensive, and just to get a general idea. It's also a complement to the capital plan because the capital plan is constrained by everyone's capabilities. We want to include what is "desirable" as well. We'll take your question anyway, if the exercise goes further, there may be a way.

Martine Bruneau (Abitibiwinni): Right. Then our questions regarding the funding, is it now that we can ask them, or later?

Guy Latouche (AFNQL): We will talk about the 2022 funding later. If you think that your question is more related to this topic, you can wait until later. If it's an overall question and about current programs, go ahead!

Martine Bruneau (Abitibiwinni): In Abitibiwinni, we built three houses, and we had to postpone the construction of the others, due to the lack of contractors (delay in projects due to Covid). With the contractors we found, the council had to spend an additional \$533,000 to build 3 houses. The costs increase and must be reviewed between the time we assess the needs and the achievement (construction). Next year it will be worse: for example, I have 10 renovations and \$25,000 per house. Basically, when I did my plans and specifications, it was all doable. But now, just in plumbing, I'm looking at \$18,000. Will we get financial assistance for these cost overruns, or does the council still have to pay the difference out of the block funding?

André Dansereau (ISC): This is certainly a hot topic for ISC housing initiative, but as for us, our envelope is closed. When we did the allocation of funds, it was for applications that were received. Right now, we don't have any official additional money, Guy talked about it for 2022, but right now we have nothing. We have also not heard from headquarters that there will be additional money to cover cost overruns due to Covid. Now what is important is to send us the information, when you have cost overruns associated with the Covid-19 situation. Now, there are not many communities that have contacted us with this problem, but it is perhaps because the communities can play with their envelope, as it is a financial assistance based on a subsidy, as you have seen in the guide, some communities have changed their buildings, adapted the project, to be able to fit in the costs. That's one way to do it.

Martine Bruneau (Abitibiwinni): Last year, I encountered cost overruns and I discussed them a lot with Nathalie. I sent several invoices and unfortunately, she was not able to help me.

André Dansereau (ISC): Yes, because it was probably the same thing, the closed regional envelope.

Martine Bruneau (Abitibiwinni): I just want to make a comment because currently, the amounts are not realistic with the estimates. So, the prices for my duplexes last year are not the same this year. And it will probably be different next year. This is just something to bear in mind.

André Dansereau (ISC): We understand the situation very well and we were "in the know". It is likely that the 2022 budget will allow us more flexibility, but we are keeping this issue in mind.

Patrick thanked the speakers and asked if there were any other questions.

Martine Bruneau (Abitibiwinni): One more question: are there funds reserved for emergencies? For example, I have a 60-year-old house where we must raise the house to make a normal foundation. It costs \$100,000 for this project. I have already approached CMHC for funding, but does ISC have funding for emergencies like this?

André Dansereau (ISC): For our part, the only budget we have associated with housing and infrastructure is the initiative envelope. There are regional sub-budgets, but they are associated with priorities. It is a matter of presenting us with a project (estimate) so that we can put it in the "prioritization machine", because there again, the budgets are very limited. It is necessary to present us a project with an estimate, and we will see afterwards what budget would be available and, we will see if we have the authorities to support this budget. For the moment, when we talk about the housing initiative, as we had an 18 M\$ this year, it is certain that all this amount is allocated, as we do not want to return sums to the federal government. The pandemic has led us to see certain intangible impacts, and we need to have data on this, because we will have a reflection exercise to do to find solutions and be upstream.

Martine Bruneau (Abitibiwinni): We are not the only ones facing these cost overruns. Home renovations are also unpredictable in terms of costs. It would be nice to find a solution to have an emergency envelope, even for cost overruns. We get a lot of surprises when we renovate a house. In my case, I had to ask for an additional \$533,000 for cost overruns. That's something to consider.

André Dansereau (ISC): We are thinking about regional budgets, and we are aware of this reality. We also need to find a way to be proactive and to have it resolved within the community. It would be much easier. We are very aware of that. We are also juggling regional budgets.

Patrick Robertson: Any other questions?

Jean Dumont (Waban Aki): My question is for Guy: regarding homelessness, will the budgets be directed to the communities or outside the communities? I would like a clarification on this.

Guy Latouche (AFNQL): Recently, I indicated on WorkPlace a funding initiative outside of the communities. But now, there will also be an initiative to come on communities in the order of 1.1 M\$ for the region, and this, per year for two years. This is not yet posted, as it is in development. Currently the National AFN will have to determine the distribution of these funds (implementation), because it will not be a large amount per community. We can think that there could be initiatives of accompaniment, of wellness. But the envelope is so limited that I would be surprised if there was a lot of capitalization. The envelope for the treaty First Nations is separate, but the envelope is quite limited. Information will be forthcoming very soon.

Jean Dumont (Waban Aki): Thank you!

Patrick Robertson: If there are no further questions, perhaps I can ask one: is there any consistency between the different regions in terms of data collection?

Guy Latouche (AFNQL): The AFNQL, the Quebec region, was the first to do this, a portrait of housing data, in the year 2000. There was an update in 2006, 2012 and 2018, four times. At the time of the last data collection, we knew that there would be a national data collection. So, AFN reached out to all the regions to collect data for a national report. We waited to do both at the same time. So, it was the AFNQL that contacted you to do both data collections. The data is consistent and was used for both the national and regional report. The total amount of our needs is about \$4B. We represent $\pm 10\%$ nationally, in terms of population. The overall amount of need nationally is \$44B, so the 9-10% relationship works, and if you hear \$60B, that's because it's a long-term projection. So, yes, the data is consistent. For national data collection purposes, we go a little bit further. How many Section 95 units, how many strip units, how many homeownership, what are the years of construction of the homes? So, we have all of that now in the database; it's allowed us to improve it.

Patrick thanked Guy and spoke about the role of the Community of Practice in Housing and its sharing platform, intended for housing managers, to which the housing partners join. He informed the participants on how to register and gave the email address to register, which is info@coph.ca. It's really for housing managers. Our main partners are also there, namely ISC, CMHC, FNQLSDI (environment). Once you register, you will receive a link to join the Community of Practice in Housing. We also have a website at www.coph.ca. You will find the necessary information there.

Patrick then yielded the floor to Tanu who gave feedback and summarized the presentation and the questions raised. He and Patrick then introduced the Regional Housing Strategy and the financing and financial management axis and invited Steve Laveau and Frédérick Martel from the FNQLEDC for their presentation.

REGIONAL STRATEGY - FINANCING AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AXIS
STEVE LAVEAU AND FRÉDÉRIK MARTEL, FIRST NATIONS OF QUEBEC AND LABRADOR ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Steve Laveau introduced his organization, the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission (FNQLEDC) and spoke about his work as an economic development officer. He mentioned that he is working on the housing file with Mickel Robertson, who is absent this morning. His presentation this morning was on the First Nations Centre of Expertise on Financial Literacy and Housing. A question period followed.

Steve provided a retrospective of the pre-Covid and September 2019 findings, as a review. He emphasized the importance of having reliable data that reflects actual costs and mentioned that some data is difficult to obtain. In November of the same year, findings and recommendations were presented on the funding of the catch-up project, despite the increase in funding. As a result, a reflection on other aspects of operation was raised. He presented the possible solutions considered at that time.

Then, Steve summarized the document tabled in 2021, i.e., the "Setting the Stage" report as well as the accompaniment and diagnostic pilot project initiated by the ASSC (Aboriginal Savings Corporation of Canada), whose mission is to put in place conditions conducive to housing renewal in order to encourage First Nations members to consider private property. Phase 2 of the FNQLEDC project aims to mobilize and raise the awareness of elected officials and local governments, not to mention individual community members. It is therefore important to raise awareness of the issues not only among elected officials but also among the population. According to the FNQLEDC and the ASSC 's perspective, it is important that communities offer an environment that is conducive to a renewal of housing. Steve Laveau then gave the floor to Frédéric Martel.

Frédéric presented the main lines of the project and the proposed activities. He emphasized the importance of making deep structural changes, preparing the ground for a real long-term catch-up in housing, and developing expertise. He turned the floor over to Steve who presented the next steps.

Steve mentioned the start of the project being during the summer of 2022. At that time, a presentation will be made in the various communities. Coaching in the communities will begin in the winter of 2023, as well as financial literacy workshops. With that, Steve concluded his presentation.

Patrick resumed and asked if there were any questions. Suzie Nepton asked if it would be possible to have a copy of this presentation.

Guy Latouche (AFNQL): Could the center of expertise offer an "à la carte menu"? There are communities where the leaders and managers are already well informed and trained, but it is at the population level that there is a need. Some people need coaching and information to eventually gain access to homeownership. So, some communities don't necessarily need to have the full spectrum of assistance that you can offer. Is there an opportunity to intervene in a particular segment?

Frédéric Martel (FNQLEDC): Yes, absolutely. We will have a toolbox and a resource box. The communities contact us, and we offer our services that we will adapt according to requests.

Steve Laveau (FNQLEDC): The needs vary from one community to another, and we are listening. Moreover, it is necessary to have a good openness on both sides. We will not be able to do the work in all the communities at the same time. The more we know about community needs, the more we will be able to adjust the formula and the offer of services accordingly. It is important that we get the information out. We don't want to replace anyone, but rather use our expertise. It will be up to the people to decide.

Patrick invited questions from the floor. He asked if the Centre of Expertise was considering involving developers. He talked about developers within communities, and initiatives within CMHC. Are there plans to include people interested in becoming developers, to plan for new housing units? This is another option that takes away from the Band Councils. Is this included in your development plan?

Frédéric Martel (FNQLEDC): It is certain that this will be part of the proposed solutions that we will put forward. With Martin and ASSC, we are working on promoting it and then accompanying potential interested promoters.

Martin Légaré (ASCC): To add to what Frédéric mentioned and to complement Steve's presentation, what we want to establish is a continuum of solutions to housing. Developers are part of those solutions. Some communities are ready for implementation. By "knocking on the door" of the FNQLEDC, they are already working with us, and they will show you the way to access funding.

Patrick resumed and asked if there were any other questions or comments. Tanu recognized Suzie Nepton.

Suzie Nepton (FNQLHSSC): That is a comment. I think this initiative is a great need, and this funding issue is important. We will continue to talk about your initiative. In some

communities, we find issues of financial management, capacity, and skills development. This could be applicable elsewhere. I will not hesitate to talk about it around me.

Steve Laveau (FNQLEDC): Thank you! In some cases, we believe that people have the means to buy a property, with a little guidance and awareness. In the survey that I sent out, people want to know more about financial literacy. We know that across the population of the communities, there are certainly people who can afford home ownership with a little guidance. This is possible for more people than we think.

Suzie Nepton (FNQLHSSC): Thank you and this is an approach that allows communities to work with their population to develop this financial literacy. I find it interesting. Thank you very much!

Tanu summarized the discussion and emphasized the importance of being aware on a personal level. A reflection of costs, capacities, and new owners within communities. I think there are opportunities. I have already discussed this with Steve, and we are open to qualifying and certifying future workshops. As an example, Lac-Simon requires all its new homeowners to complete a 25-hour financial literacy training to manage their homes and finances.

Steve Laveau (FNQLEDC): We want to set up workshops so that people can learn a little more. It's about taking stock of where we are in relation to our original mandate, how it has evolved and what the next steps are.

A word on construction: it certainly affects everyone. In real estate, cities and municipalities will undoubtedly experience a slowdown. What we want to do is to lay the groundwork for people who will want to project five years or more into the future to achieve their goals. It's a projection in time. We don't want to dwell on the various short-term pitfalls, but we want to prepare people and communities for future opportunities.

Tanu and Patrick thanked the presenters, noting the need for such initiatives, and the movement that is coming in the housing sector for years to come. He mentioned that the PowerPoint presentations will be shared on WorkPlace for the benefit of members. They mentioned that during the break, short promotional videos will be presented on issues facing the collective.

They highlight the promotional videos they will be releasing over the break, and the work they have done over the past two years. It's about valuing expertise locally and sharing that expertise with other communities. We will take a 15-minute break. Enjoy the viewing!

10:58 AM: BREAK

11:15: THE MEETING RESUMED

Tanu talked about the videos presented during the break on people trained in Gesgapegiag and Kahnawake (carpentry training project). Patrick and Tanu talked about the cohorts that completed their housing management course during Covid, a trying period. A 7th cohort is expected to start around November 20th.

Tanu talks about asset management training.

Stéphanie Légaré gave an overview of the training given from April 12 to May 12 and noted that everything went well.

Tanu emphasizes the importance of adapting the training that is given elsewhere in Canada, and to adapt it to our realities in Quebec.

He announced that the dates have been set for the next regional meeting, which will be held face-to-face on September 27 and 28, with the community of practice on September 29 and 30; the hotel is therefore reserved for a face-to-face meeting.

Patrick spoke about construction financing to deal with the issue of radon systems, and the obligations in this regard. Webinars will be available in French and English on June 8, for construction and radon systems. More webinars are planned.

In addition, mention was made of a semi-skilled curriculum, which is being developed with Mr. Jean Dumont, Grand Council of the Waban-Aki Nation.

Webinars will soon be available regarding the consultations that took place with the communities.

Patrick then invited André Dansereau, Caroline Girard, and Pierre Bélanger to make their presentation on the housing initiative.

2021-2024 HOUSING INITIATIVE AND 2022 FEDERAL BUDGET

INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA AND CROWN-INDIGENOUS RELATIONS AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA

ANDRÉ DANSEREAU, SENIOR ADVISOR (ISC), CAROLINE GIRARD, IMPLEMENTATION TEAM MANAGER (CIRNAC), PIERRE BÉLANGER (CMHC)

André Dansereau, Caroline Girard, and Pierre Bélanger introduced themselves. Caroline Girard is the Quebec Implementation Team Manager for the Implementation Sector at

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs. She works mainly for the treaty communities.

Pierre Bélanger is Regional Manager, Client Solution and Operations for Quebec and the Atlantic. He introduces his team which includes Ina Wielinga, Karine Prévost, Jean-François Samuel, François Lachance and François Sauvageau.

André Dansereau then spoke.

André Dansereau (ISC): He explained that he is the Senior Aboriginal Advisor for the Quebec Region at VS and introduced his colleague, Nathalie Spénard. His presentation was to provide an update on the current situation and to report on new information (2022 budget, 2021-2024 housing initiatives, Crown- Indigenous relations, and CMHC) and what is to come. He noted that funding is more of a recurring thing starting in 2022. In ISC (non-treaty communities), the budget is in the order of \$2.4B. A team is currently working on the funding allocation formula. Details to follow. Strategies are being developed for calls for proposals.

He mentions the amount of \$565M regarding Crown-Indigenous Relations. Caroline Girard will comment regarding this. Then, a retrospective follows on the Housing Initiative and the 2021-2024 calls for proposals (650 projects, including 23 non-treaty communities that participated, and 7 First Nations organizations). All information has been posted on the Community of Practice website.

The five components of the initiative cover construction (\$25.3M), renovation (\$9.2M), lot servicing (\$11.2M), capacity building (\$9.9M) and innovation (\$1.2M). Of the original 650 projects, 13 are on hold (construction component).

He concluded and turned the floor over to Caroline Girard.

Caroline Girard (CIRNAC): She explained the collaborative process put in place to determine the methodology for the allocation of housing funds (Cree and Naskapi populations) and the factors that will be considered in housing initiatives for the next five years.

Pierre Bélanger (CMHC): He presented the 2022 initiatives and budgets at CMHC. He reported on housing units built and those to come. He reported on a 4th strategy for urban and northern areas (\$300M over 5 years). Another initiative, the National Co-investment Fund, is being used to leverage \$2.9 billion in funding across the country to increase CMHC's contributions. For shelter and transitional housing, \$724 million over 5 years is

planned. He invites participants to initiate projects and to contact CMHC, the applications to be produced must be sent via the portal (new initiative this year).

Pierre mentioned the possibility of cumulating funding from different programs, namely CMHC, ISC, and CIRNAC programs to put forward projects. He concluded his presentation.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

Darlene Chevrier (Timiskaming): You mentioned lot services. Is there any funding for lot surveying?

Pierre Bélanger (CMHC): We do not have funding for this element. Are there any opportunities with ISC?

André Dansereau (ISC): For the survey, you can send us your project. There is funding under Housing and Initiatives, as we have funded projects of this type before.

Darlene Chevrier (Timiskaming): That's fine then. I will forward my project to you because there is confusion about our lots. Is this funding for new lots or existing lots?

André Dansereau (ISC): Existing lots are eligible.

Darlene Chevrier (Timiskaming): Thank you!

Any other questions?

[Unidentified participant (?)] (?) : Regarding ISC funding (calls for proposals) and CIRNAC, the allocation of these forms of funding seems to stem from funding formulas. What is the difference between these two ways of funding communities?

Caroline Girard (RCAANC / CIRNAC): The goal for CIRNAC is to promote self-government. Thus, the communities determine their own priorities and projects. It is simpler to determine an allocation in the first year and after. Funding is also allocated over the life of the construction.

André Dansereau (ISC): With the 2021 budget, a new way of working with the contracted communities (no longer under ISC) began. Historically, ISC operated with one-time 2-year initiatives, something that has changed since 2016. Now we can think about 5-year projects. We want to manage more by planning, and for that, recurrence is necessary. We will look at this more in the future.

Suzie Nepton: Thank you!

Romy Kistabish (Abitibiwinni): Is the recording of the meeting available?

Tanu Lusignant: We will have a version for drafting the minutes. We will be able to do an edited breakdown; we have those options available.

Guy Latouche (AFNQL): Absolutely! A report of the meeting (minutes) will be written by Mrs. Linda Sioui and will be available in French and English. It will be distributed to all communities and will also be available on the AFNQL website.

Romy Kistabish (Abitibiwinni): Martine missed the part about the budget. I took notes, but I want to complete. I tried to take pictures with my cell phone.

André Dansereau (ISC): That's right Romy and welcome in the field of housing! Our PowerPoint presentation will be available, and if you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us.

Ryan Montour (Kahnawake): My question is about the renovations. The first question I have is, is this the RRAP program that we are talking about? And I see that it is now closed. With the allocation of the new budget, will the RRAP program be enhanced for all communities across Quebec, regionally?

Pierre Bélanger (CMHC): I think you are talking about two different things. CMHC now has a relatively small budget for renovation, and we offer RRAP, but there are also two other programs that we offer specifically. We call them the National Housing Strategy programs. We've been offering them for about four years now. I think you're referring to ISC and renovations, and it's not the same program, so I'll let André answer that question, but it's different from what CMHC offers.

Andre Dansereau (ISC): Renovation funding has been closed since January 2022. It will be closed for the 2021-2024 initiative. For the April budget, we don't have details yet. We are currently working on a regional strategy, and there is a good chance that renovations will come back in some form.

Ryan Montour (Kahnawake): I was wondering if an increase in funding would be considered?

Andre Dansereau (ISC): Proposals are one way to do it, but we will look at other options.

Ryan Montour (Kahnawake): Thank you! As for the Rapid Housing Initiative, we were denied funding.

Pierre Bélanger (CMHC): We are still waiting for the criteria for the third phase. We don't have all the details yet. As soon as we have them, we will inform you. Depending on your renovation needs, you can also talk to a CMHC specialist. We are also talking about renovations, and we realize that the needs are huge.

Ryan Montour (Kahnawake): Do we need to submit a new proposal under the Rapid Housing Initiative?

Pierre Bélanger (CMHC): We don't know yet. The costs continue to rise. An update would most likely be required, but we don't have the information yet.

Ryan Montour (Kahnawake): Thank you very much!

Other questions, comments?

Patrick Robertson: I understand that there is no time limit for submitting projects to ASC?

André Dansereau (ISC): We only have the end of August deadline. The communities must go back to the site and apply without any problem. For the financial availability, we keep a small reserve to be able to answer the needs during the year.

Patrick Robertson and Tanu Lusignan thanked the presenters and gave a summary of the funding situation. Patrick mentioned the importance of the Community of Practice in Housing, the availability of the minutes in both languages.

SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

Tanu spoke about the face-to-face meeting in September at the Doubletree Hotel and highlighted the graduation of the new cohort at that time.

Patrick thanked the presenters, participants, technicians, partners, and all those involved in the project.

THE MEETING ENDS AT 12:20.

Appendix 1

Listing of attendees

In attendance:

Andrée Dansereau, ISC
Anissa Riverin, Ekuanitshit
Areti Malliarou, Kahnawake
Bert Hester Cree Nation Government
Caroline Girard, CIRNAC
Charmaine Caldwell, Akwesasne
Chelsea Polson, Long Point First Nation
Cheryl Gabriel, Kanesatake
Chief Ryan Jacobs, Akwesasne
Christopher Connelly-Vincent, Huron-Wendat Nation
Christine Stevens, Kitigan Zibi
Claudine Gros-Louis, Huron-Wendat Nation
Councillor Gordon ...
Daisy Bellefleur, Mamit Innuat
Daniel Sioui, Huron-Wendat Nation
Darlene Chevrier, Timiskaming
Diane Gabriel, Conseil scolaire
Élise Wapistan, Nutashkuan
François Lachance, CMHC
François Sauvageau, CMHC?
Frédéric Martel, FNQLEDC
Ghislain Picard, Regional Chief, AFNQL
Guillaume Gingras (ASCC)
Guy Latouche, AFNQL
Jean Dumont, Grand Council of the Waban-Aki
Jean-François Samuel, CMHC
Jerome ??
Jody Mitchell, Listuguj
Joël Gagnon, Mamuitun
Judith Buckell, Mashteuiatsh
Julie Di Marco ???
Karine Prévost, ISC
Kathleen Jerome, Long Point First Nation

Martin Légaré, CMHC

Martine Bruneau, Abitibiwinni,

Nathalie Spénard, ISC

OG ??

Pamela Stubbert Mullen, Mamit Innuat

Patrick Robertson, Mashteuiatsh and CoPH

Pierre Bélanger, CMHC

Ramelia Chamichian, School Council

Robin St-Onge, Mamuitun

Romy Kistabish, Abitibiwinni

Ryan Montour, Kahnawake

Stéphanie Légaré, Conseil scolaire

Suzie Nepton, FNQLHSSC,

Tanu Lusignan, School Council

Tanya Mackenzie, Kebaowek

Terry Babin, Lac Simon