

Strategy 3

ABORIGINAL HOUSING NEED IS ADDRESSED



Almost 30 per cent of the Aboriginal households living off reserve in B.C. are in core housing need.

The provincial government is addressing the need for appropriate Aboriginal housing, and will:

- Ensure that Aboriginal households with special housing needs continue to have access to subsidized housing.
- Work with the Aboriginal Housing Management Association and other Aboriginal housing service providers, using a co-delivery or partnership model, to allocate targeted federal funding to build housing and address the disproportionate number of Aboriginal people who are homeless.
- Finalize the transfer of administrative responsibility of Aboriginal subsidized housing to the Aboriginal Housing Management Association and help build their ability to manage the housing stock as a result of the federal/provincial devolution agreement. (See side bar.)
- Link trades training for Aboriginal people with new construction of subsidized housing.

Housing Fact

A disproportionate number of Aboriginal households are in housing need. In the 2001 Census, off-reserve Aboriginal households represented 3.9 per cent of all B.C. households, but seven per cent of all households in core housing need. More than 28 per cent of off-reserve Aboriginal households are in core housing need compared to 15.8 per cent for all non-Aboriginal households.

ABORIGINAL HOUSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Aboriginal Housing Management Association represents 14 Aboriginal housing associations in B.C. and is committed to the self-determination, management and delivery of affordable, quality housing to urban and rural Aboriginal people throughout B.C.

In October 2004, the Province entered into an agreement with the Association to transfer administrative responsibility for 189 units of social housing. This agreement was the first of its kind in Canada and was an important step toward aboriginal self-management of social housing.

The Association was created in the mid-1990s in anticipation of the transfer of federal social housing, including Aboriginal housing, from the federal to provincial governments. With the federal-provincial devolution agreement, the Association has the opportunity to assume portfolio administration of a further 2,500 units.



The Vancouver Native Housing Society's John C. Leman Building in Vancouver's downtown eastside provides 98 apartments for area residents.

The Leman building features First Nations art in the entrance and front courtyard, including the Spirit of Harmony mural.



1545 East Broadway residence for elders, in Vancouver, run by the Vancouver Native Housing Society.



Lu'ma Native Housing development, located in Vancouver, provides 22 units of mixed income housing for Aboriginal families and singles.

Federal devolution of housing



(left – right) Roger Butcher, BC Housing's Vancouver Island Regional Director with Kevin Albers of the M'akola Group of Societies, Linda Ross of the Aboriginal Housing Management Association, and Ted Eby, a Property Portfolio Manager for BC Housing.

The federal government is transferring administration of all federally-led subsidized housing units to B.C., which will be added to the provincial housing stock. This represents about 17,600 new units. Provincial administrative responsibility will increase the opportunity to better target this housing to serve those most in need.