

Moving Forward Together

UPDATE ON BC HOUSING'S RECONCILIATION STRATEGY ► DECEMBER 2022

We are advancing on the recommendations from the 2020 Moving Forward Together (MFT) report. This bulletin is to honor our commitment to sharing our progress and maintaining consistent communication on Reconciliation efforts in alignment with the key themes highlighted in the report.

Understanding Truth and Reconciliation

One report finding highlighted the importance of BC Housing employees building a deeper understanding of Reconciliation and Indigenous Peoples' history and experience. In response we made the Working Effectively with Indigenous Peoples educational program delivered by Indigenous Corporate Training mandatory for all staff. In September 2022, the Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (OEDIB) kicked off our "Reconciliation in Action" learning series by hosting an internal panel on the səmiq̓wəʔelə partnership with kʷikwəʔəm First Nation to impart learning with employees while also beginning a series of Reconciliation Dialogue Sessions designed to deepen our shared understanding of reconciliation in housing.

Transforming Organizational Culture

Since October 2020, the BC Housing's OEDIB is leading change and advancing work that applies a deepened equity analysis to our business operations, programs, and policies. The OEDIB is spearheading the development of the following initiatives that were recommended in the MFT report:

- **Equity Assessment** – an external review to identify and address barriers faced by rights and equity-seeking individuals when accessing our programs and services.
- **Sustainability and Resilience Strategy** – that integrates our commitments to Truth and Reconciliation and equity and covers both climate mitigation and adaptation.
- **Accessibility Strategy** – this maps actions to support the elimination of barriers for disabled employees and clients in accordance with the *Accessible BC Act*.

OEDIB is working closely with our Program Planning team to identify opportunities which enhance the Indigenous Housing Fund (IHF) and the Community Housing Fund (CHF) programs based on insights and feedback from Indigenous communities and partner organizations.



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Indigenous Initiatives

Building Relationships

We continue to work to understand our part in the recognition and restoration of self-determination for Indigenous Peoples. This includes strengthening our relationship with the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA). With direction from AHMA's board, BC Housing and AHMA are developing a joint leadership working group that aligns with AHMA's mission to lead and advance the housing rights for all Indigenous Peoples living in BC.

Our Indigenous Relations and Indigenous Asset Management teams are strengthening partnerships with First Nations to support on reserve housing development. As of June 2022, we entered into five asset management focused Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with 22 First Nations in BC. These MOUs will support First Nations in developing their capacity to renovate and renew housing on reserve.

BC Housing is also working in partnership with Indigenous service providers and AHMA on an Indigenous Coordinated Access approach for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in their search for supportive housing. The program will co-develop a process that integrates cultural values and safety, enabling Indigenous community-based decision making in addressing homelessness for their communities.

View Indigenous led partnerships in development projects at:

bchousing.org/indigenous/indigenous-projects

Supporting Reconciliation

BC Housing recognizes the distinct housing approaches of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit led households where intergenerational living and culture, is an important aspect of wellbeing.



PHOTO: Canoe Dedication Ceremony with k'wik'wə'xam First Nation at the Healing Spirit House (həy'x'wət'k'wə'x'həl'i? leləm)

Indigenous community engagement was conducted by the consulting team at Indigenomics resulting in a summary report. Following this work, we will be finalizing the Indigenous Design Guidelines that will be used as a baseline to support our understanding and design of culturally informed homes and buildings. We are grateful for the 40 Indigenous groups that supported the development of this report, providing invaluable perspective and direction. We anticipate the public release soon.

Additionally, BC Housing is collaborating with Lu'ma Native Housing in the development of a series of 11 short videos focusing on Indigenous people's experiences of homelessness. Indigenous partners and non-profits working directly with Indigenous clients in the province will be able to use these videos to build awareness of the unique experiences and solutions that must be considered in service delivery. The stories share culturally supportive housing models that are effective at bringing healing and a re-connection to "home" as it is understood from an Indigenous perspective.

Share your ideas and comments at:
 Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
indigenousrelations@bchousing.org



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