

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE INDIGENOUS HOUSING STRATEGY



DATE

CHRA Annual General Meeting, 26 April 2018

MOVED BY

Richard George, President, Vancouver Native Housing Society

SECONDED BY

David Seymour, Vice President, M'akola Housing Society

DECISION

Carried

A robust Indigenous housing strategy should include recognition of the growing need for culturally connected and adequate housing for metropolitan, urban, rural and northern Indigenous Peoples, with a view of housing as an integral part of reconciliation. Housing forms the foundation for vibrant Indigenous communities and remains a positive determinant of health and mental wellbeing, education, early child development, and employment.

AS SUCH,

Acknowledging that from Coast to Coast to Coast housing conditions for Indigenous Peoples have been historically disadvantaged as a direct consequence of colonization and discriminatory constitutional, legal, economic and social frameworks,

Eager to support in a concrete and meaningful way our participation to advance Canadian society in the path to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, such as improving housing outcomes,

Defining that the only acceptable outcome of a National Housing Strategy for Indigenous Peoples is to achieve the same housing conditions as the general Canadian population

Conscientious that correcting the consequences of historical discrimination requires a special commitment, stable funding, and appropriate resources,

Supportive of the objectives of the Government of Canada in co-developing federally-supported distinctions-based Indigenous housing strategies that are founded in principles of self-determination, reconciliation, respect, and co-operation,

Recognizing over 70% of the total Indigenous population live in urban areas and Indigenous Peoples make up a disproportionate amount of Canada's homeless population,

Considering Indigenous Peoples living in metropolitan, urban, rural, and northern areas face unique challenges accessing culturally appropriate and affordable housing,

Taking into account the need to better reflect and engage the perspective of the significant urban Indigenous population and the existing capacity, cultural competency, and governance that has been developed by metropolitan, urban, rural and northern Indigenous housing providers,

Bearing in mind the Government of Canada's commitment to implement, in full, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, including Article 23 which states: "Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, Indigenous Peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions,"

Recalling Federal Budget 2017 commitments to invest \$225 million over the next 11 years to provide financial support to housing providers serving Indigenous Peoples not living on-reserve, and,

Noting that this effort, even if significant, will not be sufficient to achieve the goal of equal housing conditions for Indigenous people not living on-reserve,

THEREFORE, THE SIGNATORIES TO THIS DECLARATION ARE RESOLVED TO:

1. Campaign – within Canadian society generally, and to the Government of Canada specifically – to adhere to the concept that the only acceptable outcome of the National Housing Strategy regarding Indigenous Peoples is to bring their housing standard to that of non-Indigenous Canadians within the next 10 years;
2. Call on the Government of Canada to commit the necessary resources to achieve this goal; and,
3. Call on the Government of Canada to develop a fourth Indigenous Housing Strategy to acknowledge, respect and address the housing needs of Indigenous households living in the urban, rural, and northern areas of Canada.