

CHRA INDIGENOUS CAUCUS – SESSION 2

Policy Options for An Indigenous Housing Strategy - Summary As prepared by Cassandra Vink, Vink Consulting May 2, 2017

- 1. Provide rental assistance to support no net loss of RGI units that can be stacked on project rents set at either breakeven or some other more realistic level.
- 2. Provide capital funding to address capital repair requirements and support regeneration of Indigenous housing.
- 3. Provide resources to strengthen the Indigenous housing provider network, including supporting the establishment of a broad group affiliation structure that would provide centralized support services.
- 4. Provide resources to strengthen expertise and capacity in strategic asset management.
- 5. Review and reform current rent and RGI subsidy structure.
- 6. Provide capital funding to support the development of self-sustaining new Indigenous rental housing at moderate rents as well as additional up front capital funding and/or ongoing rental assistance to allow for higher targeting of low income Indigenous households.
- 7. Provide funding for partnerships between Indigenous service organizations and Indigenous housing providers to deliver culturally based support services in Indigenous housing provider units as well as other housing units.
- 8. Develop an Indigenous specific homeownership intermediary approach.
- 9. Expand the Indigenous component of Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS).
- 10. Mandate specific targets within the other HPS funding streams prevent and reduce Indigenous homelessness.
- 11. Promote the importance of cultural safety and competency among mainstream organizations and agencies.
- 12. Place stronger emphasis on community planning and service collaboration.

- 13. Establish and fund concrete strategies for preventing Indigenous homelessness.
- 14. Establish a permanent urban and rural Indigenous Housing Trust.
- 15. All investments through the National Housing Strategy should include explicit Indigenous targets.
- 16. Support public education of Indigenous housing issues and anti-racism.
- 17. Fill data and knowledge gaps that undermine our ability to understand and act upon Indigenous housing need and help communities and service providers implement best practice strategies to address Indigenous homelessness.
- 18. Ensure a coordinated approach to Indigenous programs within the federal government, and integration of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada policy with housing policy.

Housing-related Measures Contained in the 2017 Federal Budget - Summary (Funding levels over 11 years)

- Revamped Affordable Housing Initiative \$3.2 billion
- New National Housing Fund \$5 billion, which includes:
 - o Co-investment fund to prioritize large-scale community renewal projects
 - Expand direct lending for new rental housing supply and renewal (expand Affordable Rental Housing Financing Initiative)
 - Support for innovations in affordable housing for upfront capital development
 - Temporary preservation of RGI units
 - Establish Sector Transformation Fund and Technical Resource Centre
- Improve Northern housing in the three territories \$300 million
- Support for housing providers "serving Indigenous Peoples not living on-reserve" \$225 million
- Extend and modernize Homelessness Partnering Strategy \$2.1 billion
- Expanding Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative \$202 million
- Improve housing research and housing related data collection through Statistics Canada \$241 million
- Commitment to maintain baseline funding of current Operating Agreements approx. \$4 \$4.5 billion