



Access to Programs and Funds for Indigenous Housing Providers

Ministry of Housing, Ontario

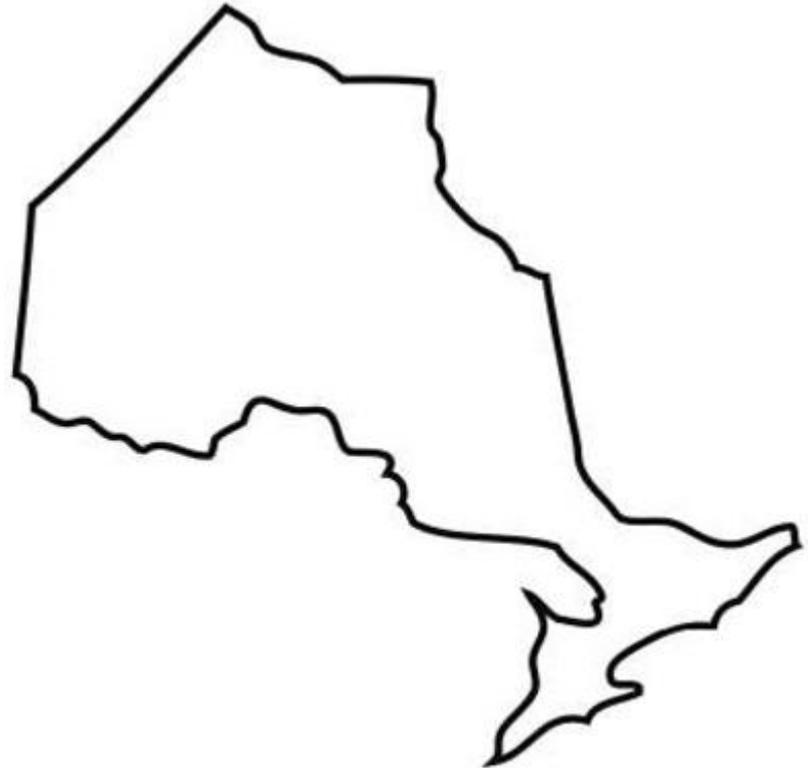
CHRA Indigenous Housing Caucus Day 2017

May 2, 2017

Indigenous People in Ontario

More than 13.5 million people live in Ontario

- ❖ Ontario has the highest Indigenous population in Canada. One in five Indigenous people in Canada, live in Ontario.
- ❖ Indigenous people may be less likely to be accurately enumerated in Statistics Canada surveys, meaning core housing need statistics may underestimate the depth of housing need among First Nation, Métis and Inuit people.
- ❖ There is a long term trend of First Nations people off-reserve (only 16 % of Indigenous people in Ontario live on reserve)



Source: Data from Statistics Canada, 2011 National Household Survey and 2006 Census .

** Core housing need is defined as a household unable to obtain adequate and suitable housing without spending more than 30% of income on housing, and for deep core housing need more than 50% of income on housing.

Indigenous Program Delivery

- ❖ Historically, funding for off-reserve Indigenous housing in Ontario has been cost-shared between the federal government and provinces through a number of programs.
- ❖ Ontario's 47 consolidated municipal Service Managers serve Indigenous clients through funding social and affordable housing programs. Service Managers also have the opportunity to engage and work with Indigenous organizations and communities on how to meet the housing and services needs of Indigenous people in their service area.
- ❖ 23 Service Managers have administrative responsibility for the Urban Native Housing program (UNH) and work with Indigenous housing providers that serve Indigenous clients through this program.
- ❖ Following the transfer of the Rural and Native Housing program (RNH) to the province, in 2006 Ontario transferred the responsibility to administer the program to Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS). In 2009, the assets of the program were transferred to OAHS and a 10 year transfer and administration agreement was signed.
- ❖ Ontario delivers Indigenous specific programs through two Indigenous programs administrators: Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services, outside of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and Miziwe Biik Development Corporation within the GTA.

Affordable Housing

Investment in Affordable Housing

- ❖ Since 2011, as part of the federal-provincial Investment in Affordable Housing for Ontario Program (IAH), Ontario has provided an off-reserve Indigenous housing component (\$26 million for 2011-15 and \$44.1 million for 2015-19).
- ❖ The IAH program also provides funding to eligible recipients under the components of:
 - Rental housing units
 - Homeownership assistance
 - Home repair assistance
 - Housing allowance / Rent supplements

Social Infrastructure Fund

- ❖ As part of doubling IAH funding an additional \$14 million in funding for Indigenous housing has been committed for use during 2016-17 and 2017-18 fiscal years.

Supportive Housing Funding

On March 9, 2017, a new investment in supportive housing was announced:

- ❖ The 2016 Ontario Budget announced \$100 million over two years beginning in 2017-18.
- ❖ Ontario is increasing its operating funding for housing assistance and support services to \$100 million annually, beginning in 2019-20.
- ❖ This funding will allow municipalities and Indigenous organizations to deliver ongoing supportive housing programs that best meet the needs of chronically homeless people in their communities, and help to achieve the goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2025.
- ❖ Ontario has established four priority populations associated with the goal of ending chronic homelessness including:
 - ❖ Indigenous population
 - ❖ Youth population,
 - ❖ People experiencing chronic homelessness
 - ❖ and those transitioning from provincially-funded institutions and service systems
- ❖ \$20 million in operating funding will be invested over the next two years to give Indigenous people better access to supportive housing. Further details about the administration and allocation of this funding will be released in the near future.

Strategy to End Human Trafficking

Ontario's Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS), in partnership with other affected ministries, is leading the implementation of Ontario's Strategy to End Human Trafficking.



- ❖ Two funds have been established under the Strategy – the Community-Based Supports Fund (CBSF) and the Indigenous-Led Initiatives Fund (ILIF) – with the aim to improve and extend access to supports and community-based services like housing, mental health and addiction services, emergency funding for travel and accommodation, trauma counselling, job skills and language training for human trafficking survivors.
- ❖ The Ministry of Housing has set aside funding under the 2016 Social Infrastructure Fund – Investment in Affordable Housing (SIF-IAH) program in both 2017-18 and 2018-19 for eligible housing proposals under the Community-Based Supports Fund (CBSF) and the Indigenous-Led Initiatives Fund (ILIF)
- ❖ The Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office at MCSS will be issuing a Call for Proposals in early spring to invite eligible organizations to submit applications for funding under both the Community-Based Supports Fund (CBSF) and the Indigenous-Led Initiatives Fund (ILIF).

Indigenous Housing Strategy Engagement

In 2016, the province committed to develop a Indigenous Housing Strategy. The ministry has established an Indigenous Housing Engagement Table, which includes participation from:



Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC)



Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA)



Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)



Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS)



Miziwe Biik Development Corporation



Gignul Housing and Nishnawbe Homes

Indigenous Housing Strategy

Key Themes & Engagement Moving Forward

- ❖ A number of key themes have emerged as part of the engagement process thus far.
 - The significant over-representation of Indigenous people among the homeless population
 - The importance of improved engagement and accountability from Service Managers at the local level with Indigenous organizations and communities
 - The importance of wholistic approaches to housing and support services – in particular for those transitioning from the justice system, the child welfare system, and experiencing domestic/family violence and human trafficking
- ❖ The ministry has also committed to outreach and discussions with Indigenous organizations beyond the Table including the Chiefs of Ontario and PTOs.



* Graphic is Ontario's Ministry of Community & Social Services, Indigenous Healing and Wellness Strategy logo

Conclusion



Now is the time to come together and acknowledge the hard truths of our past. Now is the time to renew our commitment to live together on this land based on principles of trust, mutual respect and shared benefits – *The Journey Together, Ontario's Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples*

*Reconciliation Tree, Donald Chretien Ojibwe artist , Nipissing First Nation