

The CHRA Indigenous Caucus had a chance to hear from CMHC with updates on Indigenous housing. Topics included their new Indigenous and Northern Housing Team, an overview of the National Housing Strategy (NHS) programs relevant to urban, rural and northern Indigenous providers, improvements to Co-Investment, initiatives in response to COVID-19, along with other updates. Speaking from CMHC was Romy Bowers; Senior Vice-President, Client Solutions; Lindsay Neeley; Director, Housing Solutions - Indigenous and the North; and Alison Bastien; Senior Manager, Prioritization and Intake Allocation, Housing Solutions - Indigenous and the North.

For housing providers with operating agreements that ended in 2015, will there be new programs available to bring projects back?

For projects with operating agreements that expired before April 2016 and or that had opted out of Federal Community Housing Initiative (FCHI-1), work is underway to determine how Phase 2 of the initiative may be available to select eligible former federally administered community housing providers. For housing providers with expired agreements prior to April 2016 who did not participate in FCHI-1, detailed eligibility information will be available once there is a better understanding of FCHI-2 program take-up and available budget.

Any projects that address housing and are in partnerships with child and family services?

CMHC does support such projects. The National Housing Strategy (NHS) focuses on addressing the housing needs of vulnerable Canadians, including Indigenous people, women and children fleeing domestic violence, seniors, people with disabilities and people dealing with mental health and addictions issues. One of the main initiatives under the NHS, the National Housing Co-Investment Fund, supports new and revitalization construction of mixed-income, mixed-tenure, mixed-use affordable housing. Projects require support from another level of government (which can include child and family services) to ensure a coordination of investments. Under the National Housing Co-Investment Fund, CMHC has a target of at least 7,000 shelter spaces created or repaired for women and children fleeing family violence, at least 12,000 new affordable units for seniors and at least 2,400 new affordable unit for people with developmental disabilities.