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NEWS RELEASE

Canadian Housing and Renewal Association and CHRA Indigenous Caucus Applaud Parliamentary Report into Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing

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OTTAWA – The Canadian Housing and Renewal Association (CHRA) and the CHRA Indigenous Caucus today expressed strong support for the final report of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities’ on urban, rural, and northern (URN) Indigenous housing entitled “Indigenous Housing: The Direction Home”. The Committee’s report was tabled yesterday, and followed months of study and testimony.

The Committee’s report contains nine recommendations that mirror many of the recommendations offered by the CHRA Indigenous Caucus in its “For Indigenous, By Indigenous” vision for an URN Indigenous housing strategy. Specifically, the Committee recommends dedicated funding for URN Indigenous housing, the creation of an Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Centre, provision of culturally-appropriate wraparound supports, better data collection, and an expansion in the number of Indigenous-led community entities under the Reaching Home program to address Indigenous homelessness. Notably, the Committee is clear that it “believes that the development of an Urban, Rural, and Northern Housing Centre could ensure that Indigenous housing solutions are led by Indigenous peoples themselves.”

Although CHRA and the CHRA Indigenous Caucus strongly welcome this report, it is imperative that the federal government act quickly to implement the recommendations contained in this report. CHRA and its Indigenous Caucus strongly urge the federal government to begin working now with the CHRA Indigenous Caucus to launch the process of establishing an Urban, Rural and Northern Housing Centre so that the strategy can be rolled out as quickly as possible.

“For years, the CHRA Indigenous Caucus has been pushing the federal government to deliver an URN Indigenous housing strategy that includes both housing and related supports to ensure the needs of Indigenous people are appropriately met. The Parliamentary Committee report released this week clearly acknowledges the need and clearly acknowledges the federal government’s role in supporting a culture-based strategy”, said Justin Marchand, Chair of the CHRA Indigenous Caucus. “We thank the Committee for its cross-party support of a ‘For Indigenous, By Indigenous’ strategy, and now call on the federal government to work as quickly as possible to begin the implementation process”.

“Urban, rural and northern Indigenous peoples and housing providers have been waiting patiently for years for federal action on a strategy to address the significant housing disparities facing Indigenous peoples in URN settings”, added Jeff Morrison, Executive Director of the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association. “CHRA fully supports the HUMA Committee’s groundbreaking report. CHRA and the members of the CHRA Indigenous Caucus are now ready and willing to work with CMHC and other federal departments to make sure that these recommendations quickly become reality, so that we can finally get on with the job at improving housing conditions for URN Indigenous peoples in this country”.

For more information, please contact:

Jeff Morrison, Executive Director
Canadian Housing and Renewal Association
jmorrison@chra-achru.ca | 613-594-3007, x11

Justin Marchand, Executive Director | Chair of the Indigenous Caucus
Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services | Canadian Housing and Renewal Association
jmarchand@oahssc.ca | 705-256-1876 ext. 305

Steve Sutherland, Manager for the Indigenous Caucus
Canadian Housing and Renewal Association
ssutherland@chra-achru.ca | 613-594-3007, x14