



September 30, 2024

The Honourable Sean Fraser, P.C, M.P.  
Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities  
180 Kent Street  
Suite 1100  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 0B6

VIA EMAIL

**Subject: Immediate Action Required on the National Indigenous Housing Centre Funding**

Dear Minister Fraser,

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation launched a Request for Proposals in January 2024 to establish an Indigenous-led National Indigenous Housing Centre. Proposals were submitted by March 4, 2024, yet the Government of Canada has not announced an outcome – leaving \$2.8 billion in critical funding for urban, rural, and northern (URN) Indigenous housing stalled and at risk.

The Canadian Housing and Renewal Association (CHRA), as the national voice of the community housing sector, represents numerous organizations that support hundreds of thousands of people across the country. The Indigenous Caucus at CHRA has long advocated for a national Indigenous-led and Indigenous-delivered URN housing strategy, a need that your government acknowledged with \$281 million from Budget 2022 and a further \$4 billion over seven years in Budget 2023.

However, despite these commitments, Indigenous communities continue to experience homelessness, overcrowding, and housing precarity at disproportionate levels. Over 80% of Indigenous Peoples live in urban, rural, and northern settings, where these issues are most acute.

Every day of delay in releasing these funds directly impacts lives. The delay in establishing the National Indigenous Housing Centre and releasing this urgently needed funding is unacceptable.

NICHI, the National Indigenous Housing Collaborative Inc., was specifically created as an Indigenous-led entity to deliver these funds and implement the URN Indigenous Housing Strategy. NICHI has already identified \$2 billion in shovel-ready housing projects and successfully administered the initial \$281 million allocated. Yet, the remaining funding is languishing while Indigenous people continue to suffer.

It has now been almost a year since the RFP was announced, and while we wait for a decision, an entire construction season has been lost. NICHl has over \$1 billion in urgent, shovel-ready projects awaiting funding. These delays cannot continue.

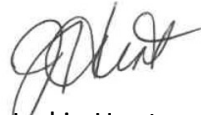
We demand that the government immediately release an additional \$280 million to NICHl so they can proceed with the next tier of urgent projects. Any further delay will represent a serious failure to deliver on your commitments and squander the opportunity to address critical Indigenous housing needs.

We expect you to act without further delay. The mechanisms are in place, and the need is clear. It is time for the Government of Canada to honor its promise and deliver for-Indigenous, by-Indigenous housing solutions.

Sincerely,



Margaret Pfoh  
President, CHRA  
Chief Executive Officer, AHMA



Jackie Hunt  
Chair, Indigenous Caucus  
Senior Director, End Homelessness Winnipeg

cc. C. Volk, CMHC