

DRAFT

First Nations Housing on Reserve



Introduction

- ISC is committed to reconciliation and empowering First Nations to achieve their housing goals.
- ISC is working with First Nations partners and organizations to address housing shortages on reserve, housing management capacity in communities, and achieve the gradual transfer of control over housing to interested First Nation communities across Canada.



What is ISC doing to Support First Nations Housing on Reserve?

- ISC works with First Nations partners and CMHC to address housing issues on reserve.
- ISC, along with First Nations partners and other government departments, is advancing the codeveloped **10-Year First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy**.
- Targeted funds are addressing the significant housing gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians.
- Since 2016, the Government of Canada has committed \$3.93 billion through ISC to address housing needs on reserve.



Current Investments

- Since 2016, BC Region has invested \$187 million in targeted funds to support 3,766 housing-related projects, as of December 31, 2022.
- Budget 2022 announced \$223 million over 5 years for **First Nations Capacity Enhancement** funding, including a Housing Management Subsidy as well as support for Training and Certification, and Technical Services.
- **A-base funds (core funding)** is provided to First Nations, and supports the **Housing Support Program** available to First Nations within BC.
- **Ministerial Loan Guarantees** assist First Nations on-reserve to access mortgage loans from lenders.



Capacity Enhancement in BC

- First Nations Capacity Enhancement funding includes \$157 million nationally over five years for a Housing Management Subsidy.
- The Housing Management Subsidy is not proposal-based, and supports the critical role of housing managers on reserve, enhances community capacity, and aligns with the National First Nations Housing and Related Infrastructure Strategy and the results of the 2018 PCO-led Deep Dive on First Nations Housing on Reserve.
- In 2022-2023, BC Region distributed \$9,708,461 for this initiative to recipient First Nations.



Housing Supports in British Columbia

- First Nations in BC can apply for funding through the **Housing Support Program**.
- Since 2016, targeted funds have supported the construction, renovation, or retrofit of 3,213 housing units in BC, as of December 31, 2022.
- Supported projects in BC will result in:
 - 761 new housing units
 - 2,447 renovations and upgrades
 - 5 lots being serviced or acquired



Housing Service Reform

- ISC is working to reform policies and strategies to better support First Nations' self-determination over housing, which includes but is not limited to developing new ways of funding, to address the infrastructure gap.
- Capacity Enhancement investments will follow First Nations' priorities, to ensure funds may be most effectively utilized by First Nations partners.
- A gradual **transfer of care and control over housing** will support First Nations in developing programs that meet their needs and priorities, and provide an opportunity to enhance capacity within communities that choose to opt-in.



What is Transfer?

**Department of Indigenous Services Act,
2019**

under this Act, the Minister is to:

*...(b) in accordance with any agreements respecting the transfer of responsibilities that are entered into under section 9, take the appropriate measures **to give effect to the gradual transfer to Indigenous organizations of departmental responsibilities with respect to the development and provision of those services.***

CFMP Services include:

- Housing
- Education facilities
- Water and wastewater systems
- Other community infrastructure

- ISC provides services for housing and infrastructure primarily through the Capital Facilities and Maintenance Program (CFMP)
- However, transfer allows for aggregate Indigenous organizations to develop service delivery models
- A clear mandate for transfer **MUST** be given by Chief and Council and renewed throughout the transfer process.



What Transfer Will and Will Not Do

Transfer **will** provide:

- First Nations with the opportunity to design and develop housing and infrastructure programs that meet their needs and priorities
- First Nations' control over funding, priorities, and decision-making
- Long-term Asset Management Planning to close infrastructure gaps on-reserve
- Predictable, long-term funding to manage and invest in infrastructure
- First Nations' discretion on how aggregations are formed and governed

Transfer **will not**:

- Transfer ISC's programs
- Be forced on First Nations
 - This is an **opt-in process** and does not affect Canada's supports outside of transferred programs and services
- This process does not impact Canada's fiduciary responsibility to First Nations
- This is not a Self Government or Modern Treaty Process



Final Thoughts

- Since 2016, ISC has worked to accelerate investments in First Nations housing, and according to 2021 census data, the housing gap for First Nations is starting to close compared to 2016 figures – and the gap is closing more quickly for First Nations members on reserve.
- Nevertheless, both the size of the housing gap and the needs of First Nations remain significant.
- In collaboration with First Nations partners, ISC is working to modernize housing supports. Together we can advance co-developed distinctions-based housing strategies, improve housing outcomes and facilitate transfer of care and control over housing, where desired.

Questions?

