

## Questions after presentation

### Chief Marcel Shackelly, Nooaitch Indian Band

He wanted to address the at-risk population that we have within our communities. If a low-income housing structure is created it can concentrate the at-risk population within the community.

Q - Is it possible to create an ISC statement before the model for individuals that have addictions or social issues? to have a structured program for check-ins or curfew.

A – These are the questions that communities have to answer, leadership and housing council have to decide how to structure your governance, decide on priorities and where you would like the money directed. HIC is here to help coordinate the needs of the communities. Chief Mark Point

### Chief Andrew Robinson, Nisga'a Village of Laxgalts'ap

Has concerns regarding the large structures being put in place, sitting outside watching as a Treaty Nation. View's that HIC focus is on trying to devolve services down to a leadership group.

Q- How do we as modern Treaty holders across the province begin to make sure that HIC is not influencing us?

Explained that Infrastructure is not being discussed in the room or talked about enough and that it is a major issue for Indigenous communities. If we do not have proper Infrastructure then housing is ineffective.

We need building codes, proper Infrastructure support, prioritize our responsibilities in rural areas, more functional planning and voice heard from communities.

A – These are the reasons we are having these sessions to hear your voice and concerns. HIC is aware of the Treaty Groups and 10 Year Grant communities and will not impact that agreement. We have two working groups for Housing and Infrastructure working with communities to help us better understand what the needs are. This is the opportunity for us to work together and resolve these issues ourselves.

Chief Mark Point

### Bernard John, Councillor, Xaxli'p First Nation

Voiced that communities have opportunities for economic growth and could bring in qualified members to work within the community but there is no housing available for our people to do this.

Q – Is there a plan for communities that have a backlog of housing or subsidies for it?

Q – How will HIC prioritize the needs of the housing compared to economic development?

A – It is not up to HIC to fix these issues but work the communities to find the solutions, to help resolve these problems together. Our focus is to help facilitate funding policy and to have more of a holistic approach where communities are supporting communities. Chief Mark Point

### Heather Leong, ISC

Contributed to the question about what plan HIC has for communities.

A – ISC is looking at opportunities to transfer care and control of programs to First Nations organizations. HIC is gathering information to see how the new authority may look at planning, is it going to be planned within the organization, is it going to be a technical service? Based on community feedback HIC is looking at what should be changed and how that would change from the way it is now because ISC has many restrictions. In these sessions, HIC is looking for potential models and solutions from communities and their views on what will work.

### Chief Terrance, Merritt

Expressed his frustration with housing & infrastructure in his community Coldwater, 2 reservoirs are outdated by 25 years, the backup plan when the water runs out is their firetruck. The second reservation does not have running water or electricity. Four houses were built recently for the first time in the last 15 years and had 36 families applied for it. Feels all the money Canada gives for Indigenous housing ends up going to administration fees and First Nations do not see any of the money.

### Chief Don,

The community is in a housing crisis, also curious about the off-reserve portion of it. Commented if there was a grant, young people could afford housing and mortgages. *(could not hear rest of recording)*

### Marilyn Joseph,

This is the first time hearing about HIC and wanted to get more information, asked if we had a website so her Housing Manager could follow up.

Q – Where are administration costs coming from with the new authority? and how will that impact communities that have already signed the 10 year grant?

A – If you have made a 10 Year commitment with ISC HIC will not affect or take away from that which the government has made. (1hr)

Noted we are looking for input to try and find a solution

### Chief William Schnieder, Samahquam

Over the last 19 years in regard to funding for housing, it has not changed. It needs to be taken into account the cost of housing and standards are different especially in rural communities.

Formulas need to be properly developed and shared.

Felt not much was presented on developing services, we need to clearly understand what that service is and what it's going to look like. We need to make sure it includes models for managing housing projects and managing after the fact.

### Chief Michelle Edwards, Cayoose Creek

Infrastructure is outdated and needs to be the start of the building plan. We need to look at how do we employ our people instead of hiring outside at very high costs.

Shared some possible solutions for housing:

We suggested members wanting to build a house to go through the process of applying for a loan, and if they are not approved the band could co-sign. And once they build their home they could transfer the mortgage into their name.

Renovation Loans, should we build second suits and rent those out to community members or contractors in the community. Or they could be used for other family member's grandparents, cousins etc.

Off Reserve, collectively purchase housing in cities where our young people are going to school so the students have affordable housing and can also pay towards off our mortgages.

How is the province part of economic development?

### Leo Lawson, Gwa'sala – "Nakwaxda'xw Nation

We need to look to partner up and hire someone from neighboring communities, how do we build this relationship. Have BCIT come in for training for a crew.

Q – What conversations are happening with Ottawa in increasing the budget?

A – We have a Government to Government committee working on that, the federal election had put things on hold. We have not come to the point of talking numbers but we are talking about the principles of where we can work together with the transfer. We need to do inventories, surveys, current conditions of housing & infrastructure and need community input. Chief Mark Point

### Chief Courtney Jones, T'it'q'et First Nation

Statement of concern about the expense of the operating an elaborate governing structure that will become top heavy and the majority of the money is going into governance.

Issues with keeping a housing coordinator because it is offered with a very low income or a part-time position combined with other things so it becomes a high turnover rate. Capacity development needs to be looked at for those people working in the communities.

Off reserve housing, where we allocate expenses and resources to buy houses off reserve where it could be cheaper than building a new home on reserve.

Allotments for funding, communities are struggling to have the resources in place to pay the contractors at the rate they require to meet expenses. Sometimes they need contractors to finance it for them which result in not reliable contractors coming into the community and taking advantage of these communities.

A - HIC has had a lot of nations express interest in the housing management position covered with the new authority so that is something we are looking at. The

## Comment cards submitted

*(would like response via email)*

Richard Hall, Nuxalk Nation

- Q1 – What does harmonization look like? BC Housing, ISC, CMHC?
- Q2 – Why harmonize with ISC, BC Housing, CMHC?
- Q3 – What does capacity building look like?
- Q4 – How will you insert health & wellness into housing?
- Q5 – Block funding should be removed from Housing Infrastructure, Can you build that in plan?
- Q6 – Who will lobby for \$ at the treasury board?
- Q7 – Training capacity, Education
- Q8 – Can you build into program FN housing for ones in educational programs?

Scott Hickling, General Manager Operations, Takla Nation

- Q1 – We were not aware of this group nor the survey until this meeting, Wonder why we were missed?
- C1 – Infrastructure, building standards, minimum requirements need to be established and be practices applied.
- QC2 - Round table sessions!?
  - Allocation of top up funds
  - Off reserve housing
  - Basic building standards
  - Capacity to run housing
  - Off reserve housing
  - Pooling of resources plus needs
  - Funding for northern or remote locations
  - Approved contractors, List across BC
  - Communications!
  - What is timeline?
  - Can we help?
  - Less red tape
  - Help hotline
  - Best practices
  - What will ISC gain when this organization becomes self?
  - Funding model standards to meet construction progress payments.