



Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – NOVEMBER 16, 2009

ATTN: News Release is below with 2 pages

OAHS Launches RFP for More Aboriginal Housing

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

November 16, 2009

Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) is pleased to launch a Request for Proposals (RFP) with the objective of allocating funding to deliver more housing units under the First Nation, Inuit, Métis Urban & Rural Housing (FIMUR) Rental Component Program.

OAHS previously announced \$20.4 million in funding to deliver 144 rental units under the FIMUR Housing Program.

As a result of this previously allocated funding for rental units, the current RFP will target proposals from Northwest and Northeast Ontario. There will also be a slight emphasis on projects that are supportive or transitional in nature.

To support the above objective, OAHS is also pleased to announce coordinated Community Information Sessions to be held in 13 locations across Northern Ontario. These sessions are made possible through partnerships and co-hosted with Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA), Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), and the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC).

The goal of the FIMUR Program is to help address housing needs for Aboriginal people in Ontario living off-reserve, designed and delivered based on community engagements. Don McBain, Executive Director of OAHS comments, "These Community Information Sessions will help ensure continued community engagement and input into housing for Aboriginal people living off-reserve in Ontario."

About the FIMUR Housing Program

The FIMUR Housing Program has two (2) major components:

The Rental Housing component (approximately \$51M for approximately 360 units) is a one-time capital program that includes new construction, acquisition of existing vacant residential or non-residential buildings for repair or conversion to affordable rental housing, and new supportive and transitional housing.

The Homeownership Assistance component (approximately \$6M for approximately 200 households) is a forgivable loan which provides down-payment assistance to families, who are currently renting, and would like to purchase a home or homeowners who are no longer entitled to reside in their residence. The loans are interest free and forgivable after five years if the homeowner remains in the home. The assisted homeownership program will continue to take applications without interruption until that fund is depleted.

Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) has been allocated \$60M for outside of the GTA.

Funding is 100% capital and flowed from a federally funded Off-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Trust, of which Ontario received \$80M.

About Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS)

OAHS is a Corporation without share capital that is mandated to:

- provide housing and repair programs with a specific focus on the Aboriginal community, to be delivered cost-effectively;
- provide central policy/program administration and develop training for Aboriginal Housing provider groups;
- undertake responsibility for matters related to socially assisted, culturally appropriate off-reserve housing; and
- utilize the talent, skills and experience of the Aboriginal community to the greatest extent possible in the allocation, delivery, construction and long term management of programs.

The OAHS Board is comprised of representatives appointed by Métis Nation of Ontario, Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, and Ontario Native Women's Association.

"Providing safe affordable housing is our mandate. Creating homes is our goal."



"Supported by the Province of Ontario"

