

A person is seen from the back, wearing a patterned blanket with geometric designs in shades of brown, teal, and white. The person is looking out over a vast, hazy landscape under a soft, warm sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

URBAN AND RURAL
INDIGENOUS HOUSING
PLAN FOR ONTARIO

**EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY**

ONPhA

ONTARIO NON-PROFIT
HOUSING ASSOCIATION

THE NEED FOR A PLAN

Several converging factors underscore the need for a distinct off-reserve Urban and Rural Indigenous Housing Plan for Ontario: the rapid growth rate of the Indigenous population (54% over 10 years); the increasing urbanization of Indigenous peoples (nearly 85%); the disproportionately high rate of Indigenous poverty (24%) and core housing need (18%); and the considerable overrepresentation of Indigenous peoples in the health, justice and social services systems.

In the fall of 2018, ONPHA's membership unanimously adopted a resolution put forth by its Urban Aboriginal Housing Advisory Committee (UAHAC) resolving that ONPHA work with partners to call on federal and provincial governments to implement urban and rural Indigenous housing strategies.

To support this resolution, ONPHA engaged consultants Daniel J. Brant & Associates and a Steering Committee composed of members of ONPHA's UAHAC to create an Urban and Rural Indigenous Housing Plan for Ontario. Within the report are socioeconomic, legal and historical arguments to support six calls to action with clearly identified costs, savings and benefits.

WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY

Analyzing data from Statistics Canada, literature and document reviews, case studies and surveys and interviews with Indigenous community housing providers in Ontario, the report identifies the need for approximately 22,000 additional subsidized Indigenous community housing units over the next 10 years to meet the current and future housing needs of Indigenous Ontarians living in core housing need (inclusive of new construction and replacing aged units).

Focusing on the economic benefits of investing in Indigenous community housing, the report presents a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis associated with building the required units. With a construction cost of \$7.3 billion, the construction program will create over 95,000 year-jobs over its 10-year timespan, add \$3.8 billion directly to the provincial economy and achieve savings and gains in other provincial systems for a total of \$14.3 billion, far exceeding the initial investment. These savings and gains are



85%

of Indigenous peoples in Ontario live off-reserve in urban and rural areas



18%

of Ontarians in core housing need identify as Indigenous



24%

of Ontarians living in poverty identify as Indigenous



22,000

additional subsidized Indigenous community housing units are needed over the next 10 years



\$14.3 billion

in cost savings and gains plus \$3.8 billion added directly into the provincial economy with an initial investment of \$7.3 billion for construction

derived from reduced incarceration and recidivism rates, improved education and employment outcomes and reduced spending on healthcare, social services and shelter costs associated with housing Indigenous people otherwise in core housing need.

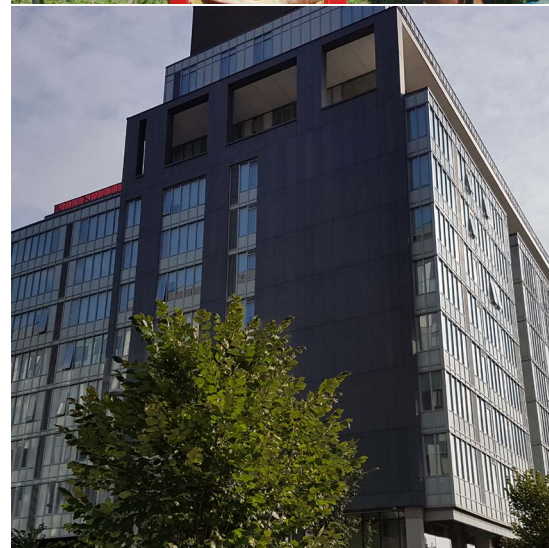
The report recognizes the benefits not only of providing adequate, affordable housing for Indigenous people, but also of providing culturally-relevant, wrap-around services and supports through Indigenous-led housing providers. Ensuring cultural continuum in housing can help address the lasting impacts of racism, colonialism and intergenerational trauma, while also helping move Indigenous people along the housing continuum. The report thus identifies the need for greater Indigenous control, management, vision and direction of the Indigenous housing sector.

To action further on reconciliation, the report also identifies the need for a comprehensive, community-supported Indigenous housing database to accurately represent the current and future needs, gaps and capacity in the sector. The report relies on the limited data currently available and acknowledges the lack of standardized data as a major obstacle in the development and sustainability of Indigenous community housing. As such, the results of the report are conservative estimates of demand and cost savings and benefits.

In addition to identifying the number of required units and associated cost savings and benefits, the report acknowledges the limited resources currently available to Indigenous housing providers, even in light of recent federal and provincial investments in community housing. To ensure sufficient resourcing of the plan, the report outlines the potential to develop private sector partnership opportunities through strategic employment of the tax system.

NEXT STEPS

The Urban and Rural Indigenous Housing Plan for Ontario is a critical step on the path to reconciliation and must be undertaken in true partnership with Indigenous partners across the province, recognizing the diverse needs and perspectives in the sector. ONPHA looks forward to engaging and working with Indigenous, federal, provincial and municipal partners in the resourcing and implementation of this crucial plan.





ONTARIO NON-PROFIT HOUSING ASSOCIATION (ONPHA)

Founded in 1988, The Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA) educates, strengthens and advocates for Ontario's community housing sector. ONPHA represents over 700 Ontario non-profit housing providers, housing over 400,000 people in 170,000 homes across 220 communities. Our members provide quality homes to low and moderate income households across the province. ONPHA fights to ensure all Ontarians can access affordable, safe housing in a community they choose.

ONPhA

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