nichi

National Indigenous Collaborative Housing Inc. Logement Coopératif National Autochtone Inc.

# Engagement Report to CMHC

MAY 2023

"Our deep history creates a sense of belonging that can be paired with housing. Identity and connecting with identity and sense of belonging is part of the route out of homelessness."

-INDIGENOUS TENANT

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# PART 1 Where We've Been

## PART 1 Where We've Been

#### BACKGROUND

Engagement is a way of life for Indigenous people. It's our traditional way of being. It's part of our daily life, how we think, how we foster growth and how we create innovation. One could say It's in our DNA. Most importantly, engagement will form the basis of how National Indigenous Collaborative Housing Inc. (NICHI) conducts itself in all its dealings with Indigenous people.

NICHI is a values-driven national Indigenous organization. We operate on the premise that housing and related services for Indigenous peoples is best provided by Indigenous organizations with the operational philosophy informed by a holistic Indigenous world view and lived experiences. The premise is best described through the term *"For Indigenous By Indigenous."* 

As a newly incorporated, national collective founded by long-standing urban Indigenous organizations that provide housing and wrap-around services to Indigenous peoples living in urban, rural and northern communities, NICHI, with its decades of collective knowledge and resource of housing providers and friendship centres across the country, is best positioned to assume the lead role to respond to the immediate need of Indigenous people living away from their home communities. A For Indigenous By Indigenous (FIBI) approach, means NICHI is also best positioned to assume the lead role in administering Government of Canada funding targeted to urban, rural and northern housing on an urgent basis including building capacity for the longer term, creating a national Indigenous organization that can actively respond to and participate in a federal urban, rural and northern (URN) strategy development and implementation by drawing from decades of experience at a grassroots level.

As a Coalition of 15 Indigenous housing providers and advocates who came together in November of 2022 to fulfil a vision for housing their people, NICHI is dedicated to engaging all Indigenous people living away from their home communities. That initial group of 15 has since grown to over 50 Indigenous-led organizations who have signed on to the URN Declaration and joined in membership with NICHI. The result is an expanded interest in the approach NICHI is advocating and involvement across Canada, affording the opportunity to engage, on a broad perspective, with organizations serving the urban, rural, and northern Indigenous communities. Engagement is central to any approach to housing as it opens dialogue, takes in all perspectives and above all, listens to lived experiences to ensure an individual's needs are met with respect and the opportunity to thrive. This Coalition may have formed six short months ago but the effort to create a FIBI-centric strategy and with it a national Indigenous organization to lead the work, has been decades in the making. It was but the first piece of a longer-term engagement approach.

This Engagement Report is provided to cover a period of just six months, from late November 2022 to May 2023 but it will also look to the future on how to move forward in a manner which meets the needs and priorities of urban, rural and northern Indigenous people. It is provided as a requirement of the Contribution Agreement signed between Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation and the Aboriginal Housing Management Association-BC, on behalf of NICHI, dated January 31, 2023 which outlined the following objective:

"The Urban, Rural, Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy engagement will aim to gain views on an Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy. This will include discussions on strategy elements such as: the scope of the strategy, a long-term vision for urban, rural, and northern housing in Canada, the principles that should guide the strategy, goals and objectives, priority areas, delivery, and governance models. It will seek views on sub populations in greatest need—such as women and children, youth, elders, renters, single household families, etc. The engagement will also draw out any special considerations related to urban, rural and northern housing needs, priorities and possible solutions, as applicable."

#### Long-term vision for URN housing in Canada

NICHI will fill the much-needed gap to allow Indigenous people living away from their home communities to find suitable housing where they can thrive. It will be a reliable resource for closing the gap for housing projects awaiting funding. In Canada urban, rural and northern communities face different challenges and requirements. They have unique culturally relevant needs that must be reflected in the services they receive. Evidence shows that without these, solutions are short-term. NICHI's reach extends into these areas with the expertise to provide the support needed.

#### Goals

- a) To build awareness among constituents and stakeholders
- **b)** To gather input and listen to voices of constituents and stakeholders

#### **Objectives**

- a) Change the culture of marginalization housing providers face without financial support to initiate and sometimes complete housing solutions in their communities due to inadequate or misdirected funding.
- b) Build a country-wide community of housing providers who will gain support and offer support to address the housing crisis affecting much of the Indigenous population (who represent most of the country's homeless).
- c) Establish a process by which funds can be distributed in a fair, equitable and transparent manner.

As noted, the Coalition was formed in November 2022, with NICHI incorporated a month later on December 23, 2022. The URN Declaration, agreed to by the 15 original signatories and continued for all those organizations joining in the NICHI movement, expressed the following Principles and Priorities:

#### **Principles**

#### 1. Housing is Human Right

NICHI is guided by the principle that housing is a human right as expressed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, specifically Articles 5, 21 and 23.

#### 2. Respect

NICHI recognizes the need to respect each other and uphold self-determination and Indigenous sovereignty. The signatories and members of NICHI are autonomous Indigenous organizations that form a coalition to achieve those housing purposes;

#### 3. Support

Through the development of culturally-appropriate housing and housing services, we support the retention and revitalization of our diverse cultures through traditions, teachings, worldview and ways of being, respecting the land and ensuring all Indigenous voices are heard;

#### 4. Housing Equity

To be respectful of each other and of all life ensuring housing is provided to all Indigenous peoples on an equitable basis and in an Indigenous holistic manner.

#### **Priority Areas**

- Jointly identify, develop and advocate priority initiatives that the signatories mutually agree upon;
- Work together to compile research, develop communications strategies with respect to advancing the urban, rural, and northern housing strategy
- Acknowledge the need for partnerships with governments, municipalities and Indigenous governments and other parties to benefit the provision of Housing for urban, rural, and northern Indigenous peoples; and

- Make decisions jointly with partner organizations where collectively agreed upon;
- Initiatives serving the most marginalized and under-represented communities will be prioritized for support.

#### Delivery & Governance model

NICHI recognizes that culturally appropriate wrap around services are essential elements of successful housing outcomes and will remain open to Indigenous organizations who share the same vision to join the coalition to work together towards *For Indigenous By Indigenous* (FIBI) solutions.

With the Indigenous the population growing at a rate that is four times faster than the non-Indigenous population and generally younger (Statistics Canada, 2021), it is vital to address the diverse and growing needs of the urban, rural and northern Indigenous population to avoid catastrophic housing outcomes. Housing issues experienced by individuals, elders, youth aging out of care and families are similar and yet unique in terms of their challenges and needs.

#### **PRIMARY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:**

The first four months of 2023 saw engagement activity focused on two major events:

#### (i) NICHI Launch, Ottawa

February 2023 marked the date when NICHI was formally launched, calling out the Government of Canada's inadequate funding and its deployment, attracting national interest from the Indigenous Coalition signatories as well as Indigenous and non-Indigenous housing and housing support providers.

The launch was initiated through media briefings and meetings with a number of parliamentarians from across party lines. The total estimated traditional and social media reach of NICHI's messages to a Canada-wide audience was 109,595,897 impressions across 229 publications and radio stations as well as social media with the following messages delivered by NICHI spokespeople and resoundingly received as they met with the various audiences:

- Housing is a Human Right as noted in Articles 21 and 23 of UNDRIP (UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People).
- There is an urgent need for a *For Indigenous By Indigenous* (FIBI) approach to housing which includes culturally supportive services.
- Suicide, addiction and mental health issues can be prevented with support and protection through core housing noting solutions which aren't derived from Indigenous sources are considered colonial.
- There's a critical need for a national Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing strategy to strengthen people and communities as well as to ensure funding reaches those it was intended for and not get misdirected.
- NICHI will harness the extensive Indigenous housing expertise to co-design and co-deliver a national Urban, Rural and Northern Strategy, distribute resources to Indigenous housing projects and support wrap around services.

- Only culturally appropriate supports can bring solutions.
- It is more than simply helping Indigenous people acquire housing. There is a need to address societal systemic supports such as education, prevention of violence and family services.
- NICHI must be a partner at the table and be the voice for all Indigenous people whether First Nation, Métis, or Inuit, who live away from their home communities.

#### (ii) NICHI Engagement Session, Winnipeg

The NICHI Day gathering was planned and organized within a very short, two-month window and convened on April 17th, 2023 in Winnipeg. The short timeline available to put the event in place notwithstanding, over 150 registered participants gathered both in-person and online from coast-to-coast-to-coast. Appendix 'A' provides a listing of those registered for the event and shows a mix of Indigenous housing and housing service providers as well as industry and government supporters.

The focus of the day was to gain a deep understanding of the diverse stakeholders, their needs and priorities. NICHI sought input on how best to serve people in each of the diverse communities and engage and invite participation from all stakeholders across Canada to respond to the inadequately met needs of those living off-reserve or away from their home communities.

The format for the day was divided into two parts. The first was outward-facing and presented an opportunity to introduce NICHI to those in attendance, providing some history and background on what had transpired over the previous few months to get us to this day as well as ensure those gathered had a full appreciation of NICHIs aims and objectives. The second part was for gathering input and provide an opportunity for meaningful engagement with the delegates in a discussion on how an urban, rural and northern strategy should unfold. It focused on obtaining the views and opinions from those attending on the directions NICHI should take going forward. The participants were divided into three rooms with five questions asked soliciting their feedback.

The questions were:

- 1. What should be NICHI's priority focus?
- 2. What services or supports do you expect from NICHI?
- 3. What housing programs have you used in the past?
- 4. Of those housing programs noted in Q3, which were the best? Did they address your housing needs; what did you find useful; what did you find challenging?
- 5. For new housing programming, what are crucial elements, features or services for Indigenous people living in urban, rural and northern areas?

"We need to build a unity model that works within NICHI, national, locally, and internationally."

# PART 2 What We Heard

## PART 2 What We Heard

#### **NICHI DAY LAUNCH**

The general sentiment coming from the meetings with MPs was positive and supportive. A number of questions were posed regarding how the funding would be allocated to ensure regional representation, what were the next steps and what would NICHI require in order to help advance this initiative. Concern was expressed, particularly by the MP from the NWT, on how NICHI would be able to address the unique needs of the north.

The interim board members met with the following parliamentarians:

- MP Michael McLeod, Northwest Territories
- MP Marcus Powlowski, Thunder Bay-Rainy River
- MP Jenny Kwan, Vancouver East
- MP Bob Zimmer, Prince George-Peace River-Northern Rockies
- MP Larry Brock, Brantford-Brant
- MP Eric Melillo, Kenora
- MP Bonita Zarrillo, Port Moody-Coquitlam
- MP Leah Gazan, Winnipeg Centre
- Minister of Northern Affairs, Dan Vandal, Saint Boniface-Saint Vital
- Shawn Driscoll, Advisor, Stakeholder Relations, Opposition Leader's Office

#### **NICHI DAY GATHERING**

The Winnipeg gathering was divided between plenary sessions and break-out rooms where participants were encouraged to participate and respond to a series of questions.

The method used to engage and collect feedback from the participants in the Breakout Rooms is known as the *World Café Method* with Mentimeter employed as the tool used to aggregate input. Appendix 'B' is included with this report and provides a detailed overview of the Breakout Room engagement sessions and responses

#### **Report on Governance – Plenary Session**

Policy expert, Daniel Brant, PhD., presented his *Report on Governance Options for a Non-Profit Indigenous Organization*. The complete report has been submitted separately to CMHC through the Canadian Housing Renewal Association. What follows are highlights presented at the Engagement Gathering:

 Governance is a complex system of interactions among structures, traditions, functions (responsibilities) and processes (practice) characterized by three key values of accountability, transparency and participation.

# "We need to advocate together as we are stronger together."

- ENGAGEMENT SESSION ATTENDEE

- The rule of law should be Indigenous law by what governs you as a community.
- Key principles for governance: accountability, identity, understanding, strategic vision, participation, consensus oriented, responsiveness
  - unique challenges on how you address issue
- Don't be crippled by the challenges
- Effectiveness and efficiency

 Good management – (which is a part of governance) and rule of Law (compliance).

 One thing Indigenous organizations don't do is evaluate themselves. It is vitally important to the management structure that we are doing the right thing.

#### **Break-Out Engagement Sessions**

Here is a summary of the key points we heard:

The NICHI Engagement/Engagement Session Attendees were asked five important questions about their long-term needs as well as hopes and vision for an Indigenized approach to housing. Resounding responses included:

- The need to recognize the diverse members while representing the whole.
- The need to recognize the urgent and desperate need of Northern residents where suicide rates are the highest in the world.
- The importance of recognizing the disparate needs of urban and rural residents and how to deliver comprehensive services.

- Funding and processes must be transparent and equitable.
- We are stronger together.
- With the world's highest suicide rate in Nunavut, there's an urgent need for a new approach with culturally appropriate mechanisms.

We also heard views over the course of the gathering on sub-populations and special considerations related to the URN Declaration.

Western Canada Urban Inuit Resource Centre asked, "How would someone like me be a part of your group?" to which the responses included:

- We are about inclusion; become a signatory of the declaration as it recognizes everyone is unique and it's based on respect.
- We are about wanting and needing your voice at our table.

Another unnamed participant stated, "With the design I see vision. Was there any ceremony applied during this?" to which the responses included:

 The essence of what we tried to do was coming together to talk in a circle and to listen and then listen some more. We didn't know how that day was going to go in November 2022. Every voice came to consensus that day. Sitting together in a lodge, together is what worked.  We realized that we were onto something much bigger than ourselves. Government is shapeshifting around us and we have to be very strong in what we're doing. The foundation is strong and we will continue to be culturally relevant and in ceremony. We aren't here for ourselves. It's for our families and community and relations.

Subsequent to the completion of the NICHI Day Engagement Session in Winnipeg, NICHI created a post-event survey, reaching out to the delegates in attendance to seek their feedback and suggestions for how NICHI could not only improve future gatherings but also understand and issues or concerns. The following provide a summary of the feedback obtained with more detail provided in Appendix 'C' to this report.

## Survey Results on NICHI Day Engagement Sessions

Average rating for all events was over 3 out of 5, meaning all events were received well.

According to respondents the following were missing:

- Funding distribution plans
- Rural representation
- Terms of reference

#### Sentiment

Sentiment was very positive with excitement that transformation is underway. There is:

- A desire to broaden communication in order to increase inclusivity as widely as possible with URN Indigenous groups.
- Excitement and eagerness from attendees and NICHI members for a *For Indigenous By Indigenous* approach to Urban, Rural, and Northern Housing.
- Caution over whether NICHI will ensure funds are distributed to local/regional organizations.

- A belief that NICHI can build trust in the community with active communication to members and the general public on its ongoing development, particularly regarding funding streams and future application processes.
- Hope to engage as many housing providers across the country as possible and increase the representation of smaller communities.
- A need for continual education and tools for advocacy for NICHI members.
- Disappointment in how NICHI was formed, shows preference for some organizations over others, a hope that its governance structure will build trust among members across the country.
- Appreciation that NICHI supported in person attendance and recognize the value of face-to-face exchange.

#### What participants gained:

 Over 80% of respondents want to attend another event like the Engagement Session with only 20% saying they wouldn't.

#### Going forward:

- A hope that NICHI can innovate world-leading approaches and wrap-around services are scalable and adopted by its membership.
- Increase advocacy among members and the public and lead a FIBI approach, design, delivery, governance that builds capacity and innovative program models.

Over 80% of the participants who responded want to attend another event like the Engagement session and the remainder declining to attend.

# PART 3 Where We're Going

## PART 3 Where We're Going

#### **PROGRAM PRIORITIES**

It has already been noted that NICHI started out in November 2022 as a formal collaboration of 15 'coalition-of-the-willing' Indigenous housing planners, builders, operators and service providers representing urban, rural and northern Indigenous people with a geographic reach which spans the country. While those numbers have increased it is obvious that not all urban, rural, and northern Indigenous communities are represented nor have been engaged in this discussion. NICHI and its members are legally registered Indigenous organizations. Their decision-makers are Indigenous people who come to any policy or program table with decades of experience in serving the needs of Indigenous people and through their efforts, bring a high level of built-in representational credibility.

NICHI itself however, is not a deliverer of housing. NICHI is a flow-through vehicle put in place to expedite the provision of funding as a representative body for the many Indigenous housing and housing service providers across the country. As a collaboratively created entity, NICHI is best positioned to support the interests and needs of these Indigenous organizations by ensuring funding is targeted to addressing urgent and unmet needs, in a fair and equitable manner, through these very same organizations. Part 2 of this report addressed the question as to what we heard in the two primary engagement sessions held earlier. This feedback will serve to guide NICHI as we move further long the engagement continuum. It will also serve to inform the manner in which we create an operational structure and allocation processes to administer the \$281.5million targeted to the urban, rural and northern strategy from Budget 2022.

One key element of the allocation process is the creation of a Technical Advisory Committee of trusted Indigenous housing experts from across the country holding various expertise and perspective. The Committee will advise on setting appropriate criteria, funding amounts and reviewing guidelines for each of the program priority areas, recognizing the limited funding available to meet urgent and un-met housing need.

The NICHI Board will approve terms of reference for this committee. The committee will consist of a chair and a small core of regular members. Additional expertise will be called upon as needed to address unique housing project requirements depending on geography and demographics based on immediate prioritized need through a sliding matrix scale which will be developed.

## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATIONS (NIO)

The most important component in ensuring the funding is achieving its fundamental objectives is to engage on a broad spectrum with Indigenous housing providers, Indigenous housing service providers, Inuit and Metis communities as well as directly with National Indigenous Organizations (NIOs).

NICHI will conduct outreach to First Nations, Métis and Inuit governments, representative organizations and service organizations. Special efforts will be made to reach out and seek support from the Assembly of First Nations and their provincial/regional representative bodies, the Métis National Council and their provincial representative bodies and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.

While NICHI cannot control the level of engagement from any particular entity, organization or government, efforts will be made via formal communications and relationship building to engage in such opportunities as Chiefs Assemblies, housing fora, committees, commissions, roundtables, etc. These activities would complement outreach at senior political levels. NICHI Board of Directors will also consider inviting NIO representation on the Technical Advisory Committee with the understanding that the representatives identified must meet the established criteria for the technical advisors. Other options may be considered in discussion with those National Indigenous Organizations that opt to engage. It must be noted that specific efforts and actions may be subject to change as engagement/outreach efforts are developed but that will be monitored on an ongoing basis by NICHI, its members and advisors.

The hope and expectation is that outreach and invitations to jointly participate would be reciprocal on the part of the NIOs and that NICHI and its members would also be engaged by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis governments and their representative organizations.

"We are one...not the three the government separates us into, but ONE indigenous people together. FIBI is the way forward. Hearing a land acknowledgement that includes a person's own nation is a POWERFUL thing."

NICHI, in this spirit of reciprocity, will also make outreach to the NIOs' and to their various representative organizations, to see how it can help improve housing supply for their Citizens and members through expanding housing options in the network and infrastructures that the URN Indigenous Housing Providers have and have had in place for more than fifty years. The Assembly of First Nations, in Resolution 27-2017, required that the Chiefs Committee on Housing & Infrastructure jointly develop with the federal government the "establishment of a joint working group that will develop a First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Strategy which will include both on and off reserve." NICHI would welcome the opportunity to engage with any of the National Indigenous Organizations in efforts such as those described in the AFN Resolution.

Ultimately, the goal is to provide, build and expand supportive housing **for** all Indigenous peoples, provided **by** Indigenous peoples in the urban, rural and northern settings. We are hopeful that we will have broad support to meet this goal.

At the outset, the principal points of contact for engagement will occur at the community, regional and provincial levels in order to gain insight and assist NICHI in ensuring the allocation process is properly structured and the operational framework is in place to deliver the funding. First Nations through the Provincial/Territorial Organizations and Tribal Councils, provincial Metis Councils and Inuit communities, both in the North and in urban locales, are all targeted for engagement and will be included along with those obtained through outreach at the national level. This regionally/locally based engagement approach will ensure NICHI is obtaining feedback and support at the grassroots level so that this information can be shared in subsequent meetings with national and senior level and help to inform not only program design but also the use and creation of best-practices.

This large scope of engagement will ensure a broad perspective is obtained and that NICHI is gathering an immediate and relevant response. It's recognized that the NIOs are an important component of this process. An example of how this approach can be utilized was recently realized in a meeting of First Nation Chiefs from a provincial/territorial organization. NICHI presented an overview of its origins, its objectives and its desire to engage in a dialogue with the Chiefs on how NICHI may assist these First Nations in addressing the housing needs of their Citizens who live away from their home communities.

The Chiefs acknowledged that they have long waiting lists for housing in their respective First Nation communities and are focused on trying to address those needs through the limited funding available and the demands made on their housing staff. They further acknowledged that a large percentage of the Citizens of their Nation live away from home and they do not have the capacity to address those needs even though they are called upon, in some cases almost daily, to assist those who are in need but live outside the community.

The lack of funding, the impact on current staff capacity impacting their ability to assist and the dispersed nature of many of those who live away, i.e. across Canada, not just next door, means that they need an organization or approach like that offered by NICHI, to assist in helping to meet the housing needs of their people.

The Chiefs response was positive toward NICHIs' role and saw the NICHI model as offering a bridge between the First Nation and those Citizens living away who are unable to find housing solutions either in the community in which live. The Chiefs made two specific requests as this initiative moves forward. First, was a regular reporting process providing feedback to First Nations on how their and other First Nation Citizens are being served. The second was being notified of the location of the various projects as the funding begins to flow so that they can pass this information along. The Chiefs acknowledged that the current funding levels are woefully inadequate to meet the needs, not only On-Reserve but also for those who live away. A request was also made to present the NICHI model to both the provincial Chiefs Committee on Housing followed by another presentation at the national level Chiefs Committee if arrangements can be made.

This example is offered to demonstrate the importance of engaging at the local/community level where the day-to-day impact of urgent and unmet needs are a reality and require the type of support and assistance which NICHI offers.

Efforts will continue be made to reach out to the Assembly of First Nations, particularly during the late Spring and early summer months when Annual General Assemblies are scheduled across much of the country. The engagement with First Nations, whether with Chiefs directly at provincial AGAs or at the National Chiefs Assembly, will allow NICHI to help build the bridge noted earlier between First Nation communities and the Indigenous-led organizations which are in place to address the housing and housing service needs of Citizens living away from home.

The same bridging role can be said for those people who are part of the Metis Nation. The Metis National Council and many of their provincial affiliates, have been dealing with internal issues recently and while that had made it difficult to connect, efforts will continue primarily with the provincial Councils.

The new NICHI Board of Directors, with its membership comprised of representatives from across Canada, will take on an ambassadorship role in reaching out at the provincial level. A recent meeting of the new Board was focused on how we can most effectively engage and communicate in this manner. The result is that a formal engagement and communication strategy is being developed for use by the Board to immediately undertake this role and ensure we are communicating at a broad level, with the tools provided to ensure awareness and feedback is leveraged at every opportunity. Lastly, as relates to the NIOs, the Inuit, Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) has advised that, as a government organization, they will only engage on this issue at a government-to-government level. The result is that, in order to get northern perspective, we'll need to develop a model and strategy which will connect NICHI at a local and territorial level.

The use of NICHI Board members from the north will assist in that respect as will continued engagement with federal political representatives who have already expressed an interest in how NICHI can be of assistance.

#### ENGAGEMENT THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

From the start, social media has been a vital tool for NICHI's engagement and a source for two-way conversations. NICHI plans to double down on its social media efforts to continue the conversations. With hundreds of thousands of impressions on traditional media during the launch, it was no surprise that within days, NICHI acquired almost 200 followers on its social channels.

Social media will continue to be a key tool for engagement. Planned posts include polls to identify specific priorities while meeting people where they're at.

NICHI's social media audiences are:

- housing providers
- government
- other Indigenous organizations
- International Indigenous organizations seeking best practices

Content calendar posts going forward will fall into one of the following themes:

- a) Informative (practical call to action);
- b) Advocacy (awareness of issues and actionable responses);
- c) Community Building (story telling narratives that increase social awareness).

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK**

There are a number of priorities on NICHI's table as the weeks and months progress. Short-term funding related to Budget 2022 has been secured but the Allocation Model for rolling out these funds is an immediate need. Longer term funding to NICHI needs to be acknowledged along with NICHIs' place in the creation of a national For Indigenous By Indigenous (FIBI) centre. Efforts will be ongoing in the formalization of the engagement strategy and the role the new Board will play in that process while at the same time strengthening our governance structure. As has been noted, the new Board of Directors provides us with representation to reach out regionally across the country. This outreach opportunity will position us to develop a comprehensive, authentic engagement strategy and ensure NICHI is recognized as the appropriate vehicle through which to address the housing needs of urban, rural and northern Indigenous people.

The one major priority which needs to be addressed in the immediate short-term is putting in place the organizational structure to not only deliver the funding from Budget 2022 but also be ready to deliver the funding announced in Budget 2023.

We heard from Engagement Session in Winnipeg during the Break Out session and again from the Survey results which followed, that it was imperative NICHI exemplify the *For Indigenous By Indigenous* model, be well organized and be able to provide the funding on a timely basis. We also heard however that NICHI has to be more than simply a funding agency and needs to be able to undertake research and data collection to support evidence-based claims and assist organizations in finding access to land which is a major issue when developing proposals. It was also clear that, as a national organization, NICHI cannot follow the model that other national organizations has created and must ensure it has national representation. This feedback suggests that the NICHI organizational structure be diversified and decentralized to address the question of "fair and equitable" allocation of the program funding.

NICHI, in concert with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), is already well involved in the process to put the structure in place to deliver the \$281.5 million allocated under Budget 2022. The planned operating model which will be in place will see project commitments occurring in the early fall of 2023 and ensure the full commitment of the funding by the end of fiscal 2024/2025.

While these efforts are underway, NICHI will organize and position itself for the longer-term role in the delivery of Budget 2023 allocations and continue to be best positioned to respond to the urgent needs of urban, rural and northern Indigenous people.

## APPENDICES

#### **APPENDIX 'A'**

#### **NICHI Day Participants**

Katherine Cooper First Nations

Jillian Ames University of Alberta/Métis Nation of Alberta

Jeremy Denomie Saskatoon Indian & Metis Friendship Centre

Lawrence Poirier Kinew Housing Inc.

Shayla Fredborg Kinew Housing Inc.

Amanda Dachuk High Level Native Friendship Centre

Wegadesk Gorup-Paule North West Indigenous Council

Jocelyn Formsma National Association Of Friendship Centres

Renee Abram M'Wikwedong Native Cultural Resource Centre

Renee Sanderson Yellowknife Women's Society

Aron Skworchinski City of Winnipeg

Stéphanie Rajotte

Scott Clark North West Indigenous Council

**Tegan Nelson** Rural Development Network

Melissa Roy Aboriginal Friendship of Calgary

**Beverly Allard** Indigenous Congress of Alberta Association

Jessica Smith Ontario Aboriginal Housing Service Cheryl Barton Persons Living With AIDS Network of Saskatchewan Inc.

I

Shayla Elizabeth End Homelessness Winnipeg

Danielle Russell Brantford Native Housing

Alma Arguello Brantford Native Housing

Gary Wilson Aboriginal Housing Management Association

Rylan Reed Grand Council Treaty #3

Kelsey Murphy University of Saskatchewan

Darlene Bellerose Native Inter-Tribal Housing co-op

VIcki Francis First Light St. Johns Friendship Center

Ruby Baptiste Aboriginal Housing Society of Prince George

Tracey MacKinnon Self Employed

Peggy Rice OAHS

Christina Gervais Community Housing Transformation Centre

Elmer St. Pierre Congress of Aboriginal Peoples

Angela Pratt FSIN

Raymond Laliberte Saskatoon Indian & Metis Friendship Centre Bonnie Wilson Ontario Native Women's Association

Vanessa Gamblin Main Street Project

**Robin Argue** Huronia Family Housing Co-operative Inc.

Sheila Ruttan Inuit Non-Profit Housing Corp

Chelsea Combot Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres

Jim Dunn Canadian Housing Evidence Collaborative

Christin Swim Skigin Elnoog Housing Corporation

Liberty Emkeit Miywasin Friendship Centre

Bava Dhillon Bison Modular Homes

Kale Brereton Bison Modular Homes

**Trevor Thomas** Bison Modular Homes

Alex MacPherson Bison Modular Homes

Ashley Morley Bison Modular Homes

Shane Prevost Bison Modular Homes

Kelly Francis Clear Direction

Shelby Delarosbil Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services

Roger Kishi Wachiay Friendship Centre Society

Margaret Pfoh Aboriginal Housing Management Association Steve Arnett Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Friendship Centre

Matthew Majkut Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

**Daneen Denomme** Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services

Pat Henry Native Inter-Tribal Housing co-op

Julie Tomlinson OAHS

Ashley Blythe Phoenix Residential Society

**Dru Kohlman** Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association

Charlie Nicholas Native Inter-Tribal Housing co-op

Lorna Lawrence Miziwe Biik Development Corporation

Nancy Martin Miziwe Biik Development Corporation

Nicole Doucette PGNAETA

Danielle Russell Brantford Native Housing

Corey Cote Indigenous Clean Energy

Alex Newman Big Block Construction

Mildred Lavers Newfoundland Indigenous Peoples Alliance

Melody Teddy Pulaarvik Kablu Friendship Centre

Pelagie Sharp Pulaarvik Kablu Friendship Centre

James Dunn McMaster University Lee Ann Hundt KW Urban Native Wigwam Project

Louise Atkins CHRA Indigneous Caucus Working Group member

Steve Teekens Na-Me-Res (Native Men's Residence)

Megan Stewart Jordan's Principle Service Coordinator - Prince Rupert B.C.

**David Seymour** 

Nastania Mullin Manitoba Inuit Association

Chris Pereira The Northwest Territories Nunavut Council of Friendship Centres (NT/NU CFC)

Lisa Owl Community Housing Transformation Centre

Beverly Smith SEHC

**Greg Stanwood** Fraser Métis Association

Robert Voudrach National Housing Council

Jaimee Gaunce OAHS

Karin Zylstra Aboriginal Housing Management Assoc

Norine Lafferty Northern Indigenous Housing Network

Katlia Lafferty Northern Indigenous Housing Network

Kelly Moon Aboriginal Housing Management Association

Rosanna McGregor Aboriginal Housing Management Association

Patrick Bond Centre d'amitié autochtone de Québec Susan Tatoosh Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship

Dawn Murphy PGNAETA

Suze Morrison Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC)

Crystal Sutherland Biminaawzogin Regional Aboriginal Womens Circle

Winnie Peters Tipi Moza (Iron Homes)

Matilda Allison Ooknakane Friendship Centre Penticton

Karryn Hall VNFC

Katherin Cooper VNFC

**Raymond Sullivan** Canadian Housing and Renewal Association

Isiah Robin Native Canadian Cente of Toronto

Alyssa Max Infrastructure Canada

Jeff Leighton KeKiNan Centre Inc.

**Douglas Bartlett** The Pas Friendship Centre

Paul Roberts Wenjikwom Housing Commission Society

**Stafenie Einfeld** Community Housing Transformation Centre

Jeff Loucks NICHI

Steven Drysdale Namerind Housing Corporation

Robert Byers Namerind Housing Corporation Romy Bowers CMHC

Lindsay McGinn CMHC

Krista Taylor CMHC

Jessica Sopher CMHC

Marcel Vautour CMHC

Nadine Leblanc CMHC

Racheal Spina Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services

**Gwen Cardinal** Prince George Native Friendship Centre

Charles Billy 7Generation Hemp Products

Vanessa Stage INFC - Reaching Home

**Colin Doylend** Vancouver Native Housing Society

Dawn Tufford SUN Housing Inc

Barb Ward-Burkitt Prince George Native Friendship Centre Society

**Gwen Cardinal** Prince George Native Friendship Centre Society

John Robert LaFontaine Gabriel Housing Corporation

Melody Arbour Gabriel Housing Corporation

Cathy Connor Ontario Aboriginal Housing Support Services Corporation

LeeAnne Sharp Adze Napi Friendshsip Association Marcel Lawson Swain Lu'ma Native Housing Society

Meghan MCarville Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services

Blade Guiboche Skownan First Nation

Marvin Sutherland Skownan First Nation

Natalie Cahill NAFC

Sarah McBain Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services

Sally Ledger OAHS

Kali Moss Sage Solutions

Angus Palmer Wigwamen Incorporated

Brenda Aviles Wigwamen Incorporated

JoLynn Parenteau Miywasin Friendship Centre

Morgan Choquer Newo Yotina Friendship Centre

Holly Cooper CMHC

Elizabeth Blaney Congress of Aboriginal Peoples

Rod Hill BC Housing

Kimberly Langille McMaster University

Cynthia Belaskie McMaster University

Taylor Sparklingeyes Rural Development Network Belynn Pitawanakwat Community Housing Transformation Centre

Nadine Leblanc CMHC

Gabriel Maracle NAFC

Robbie Raposo Bison Modular Homes

Frances Sanderson Nishnawbe Homes Inc.

Laurent Odjick SIRCAAQ

Bruno Lemieux SIRCAAQ

Janine Harvey Northern Indigenous Housing Network

#### Brenda Knights

Vancouver Native Housing Society

"There needs to be clear and transparent understanding of the decision-making process."

#### **APPENDIX 'B'**

NICHI Engagement Session – Breakout Room Results

The results of each breakout session were brought to the larger group to expand on what attendees and members expect of NICHI moving forward. Their insights guide us on best practices as an organization.

#### **Question 1**

What should be NICHI's priority focus?

#### **Breakout Room 1**

In relation to this question, Group 1 stated that each community and situation is unique. Thoughts included opening up the application process, being transparent as an organization, and making sure that the organization remains inclusive with varied and diverse representation.

# Image: Strain Strain

#### **Breakout Room 2**

According to Group 2, NICHI needs to do things differently. Indigenous organizations across the country will come together and feed into that process. Attendees emphasized focus and a desire for NICHI to have a strategy to distribute funds equitably across the country, administering them appropriately, as well as supporting small organizations that have a lot of barriers to proposal writing and things that are holding them back from doing the work.

#### **Breakout Room 3**

For Group 3, everything is a priority, and every community will be different in terms of what their priorities are. Like Group 2, they stated that NICHI has to do things differently and steer away from colonial constructs that cause Indigenous housing organizations across the country such oppression. Many groups and communities mentioned that are most affected by the safety and security of 2SLG-BTQ+, youth aging out of care, and MMIWG.





What services or support do you expect from NICHI?

#### **Breakout Room 1**

Group 1 identified a need to advocate for NICHI members and be strong as a unit. Examples mentioned included helping find access to land and connect organizations to new developments, a need for research and data to back up evidence-based claims, and to make sure funds are equitably allocated to communities small and large.

#### **Breakout Room 2**

Group 2 indicated that small organizations need a hand-up when it comes to getting resources and the experts to help with their projects and goals. Overall, they felt the need to promote the idea of Indigenization over decolonization and bring Indigenous values to all aspects of NICHI.

#### **Breakout Room 3**

Group 3's feedback was that NICHI is a national organization and therefore equal representation is crucial in any sort of service for support. The organization must be impartial in how it delivers its services and supports because it says basic programs and services is not based in political representation. They reiterated that all members must understand how funds are allocated and how services can be delivered and in terms of specific services or supports, and that NICHI must be clear and transparent with its decision-making process. They also suggested creating a web-based tool for helping rural and northern remote communities train themselves to do housing proposals so that they can train themselves and be self-sufficient.

<figure>

What services or support do you expect from

"Indigenous-run programs are working really well to address the cycle of poverty."

What housing programs have you used in the past?

#### **Breakout Room 1**

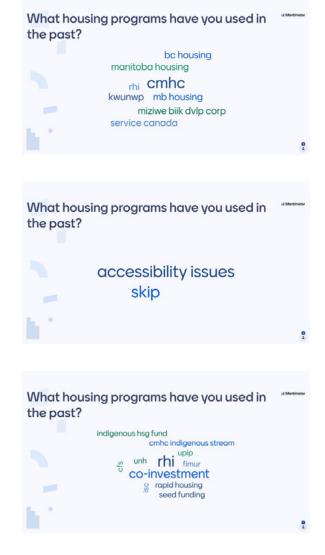
Group 1 raised the issue of long-term thinking in earlier federal programming. The federal government was developing programs that built relationships with municipal and provincial governments. There was the condition of culture, safety and affordability. Groups of projects did not have enough resources or capacity for wrap-around supports or developments weren't able to have the space for those supports, and most programs were limited to housing only.

#### **Breakout Room 2**

Group 2 recalled issues of accessibility in housing programs including supports for disabilities in housing designs. They also mentioned the sense of how this cycle of living in poverty and the Indigenous-led programs that are working really well and just looking at those to research on how active they are in terms of providing healing and spirituality.

#### **Breakout Room 3**

Group 3 mentioned an array of programs, and how as housing providers, they know what works and what doesn't. By knowing what works, they can enhance best practices of NICHI and create its own programs that exceed what has been done before.



"The organization has to be impartial in how it delivers its services and supports because basic programs and services are not based in political representation."

Of those housing programs; Which were the best, did they address your housing needs, what did you find useful, what did you find challenging?

#### Breakout Room 1

Group 1 listed many different aspects of the good, the bad, and the worst. The main point they reiterated is that NICHI can help be the bridge and the support for Indigenous housing organizations to help give understanding to the programs we build for tomorrow, respond to the needs, and provide a form of mentorship for organizations that need variety in their housing planning and wrap-around supports.

#### **Breakout Room 2**

Group 2 made it clear that the cost of affordable housing isn't affordable anymore, and there needs to be changes to allow greater affordability for the people we serve. Increasing partnerships to help provide services for housing organizations that don't have capacity is also crucial.

#### Of those housing programs; Which were the best, did "Meren they address your housing needs, what did you find useful, what did you find challenging?



Of those housing programs; Which were the best, did "were they address your housing needs, what did you find useful, what did you find challenging?



#### Breakout Room 3

According to Group 3, NICHI needs to prioritize its own funding allocation process to make sure that we're meeting the needs of those people that we're all serving and avoiding colonial practices. There is a lack of operational funding or no supportive funds available from the government. Being able to build units but then being able to have operational funding to support the individuals living there was important. Of those housing programs; Which were the best, did """" they address your housing needs, what did you find useful, what did you find challenging?



"We need research and data to make sure that those decisions are evidence-based."

For new housing programming, what are crucial elements, features, or services for Indigenous people living in Rural, Northern, and Urban areas?

#### Breakout Room 1

Similar to what Group 3 said about what is crucial for NICHI in terms of priorities is echoed in the answers above. There are many facets to Indigenous cultures across the country and there needs to be a way that works for everyone at any organization capacity. Additionally, having the opportunity for organizations small and large to be able to use funding that best suits their community needs is an asset, as well as including all diverse groups and needs in a good way.

#### Breakout Rooms 2 & 3

In the time given, both these rooms were not able to complete the final question.

For new housing programming, what are crucial elements, features, or services for Indigenous people living in Rural, Northern and Urban areas?



"Nunavut has the highest suicide rate in the world and it is directly related to housing and the lack/loss of culture and so that's why we're here today and so hopefully this afternoon when it comes time to voting NICHI will have that Inuit representation."

#### In Conclusion

When looking at the breakout room results and discussions, some of the main takeaways are:

- There is a lot of excitement and eagerness from attendees and NICHI members on a For Indigenous By Indigenous approach to Urban, Rural, and Northern Housing.
- There needs to be inclusive and Indigenized aspect to allocating funding to communities small and large
- Research and evidence on what is going well in terms of housing developments and wrap-around supports
- A need for not only development or capital funding, but operational as well
- Work together to raise all organizations up and help the people we serve to live the good life

"As a national organization, we feel that equal representation is crucial in any sort of service for support."

#### **APPENDIX 'C'**

#### NICHI Engagement Session – Feedback Survey Results

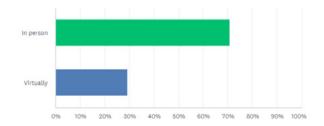
The feedback survey garnered a total of 24 responses out of 148 attendees. One reminder was sent during the survey opening. In total, 16% of attendees completed the survey.

Below are summaries of each question in the survey, featuring word clouds and example responses from the participants.

#### **Question 1**

#### Did you attend the event in person or virtually?

The majority of attendees who responded to the survey were at the event in-person (71%), and the remainder attended virtually (29%).

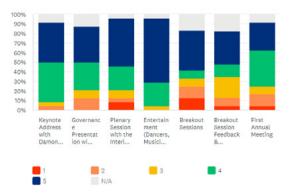


#### **Question 2**

# Please rate your satisfaction from 1 to 5 in terms of your enjoyment of the day's following activities:

To the right is a graph showing how respondents rated the events that occurred during the day, 1 being a low satisfaction rating, and 5 being the highest.

From all responses, the most well-received activities were the day's entertainment and the morning plenary session with the Interim NICHI Board Members. All events averaged over 3 out of 5, meaning all events were received well.



Was there anything during the event that you feel did not get covered or addressed?

On the right is a word cloud demonstrating the most occurring words in the participant's answers.

Here are some example answers:

"Plans for distribution of the funding would have been nice to know even if it was preliminary"

"Worried it will be another level of bureaucracy and create barriers to access funds, especially smaller organizations."

"Lack of rural representation in the room"

"No—for an inagural meeting, it was well done."

"Membership Terms of Reference that clearly articulated the criteria, eligibility, and category, ensuring we had appropriate representation with respect to housing providers."

Note: Several respondents wrote N/A or not applicable as their response.

community funding	housing information Indigenous by-laws			
representation				
Board members organizations	lack of $_{\mbox{\scriptsize event}}$			
Number	r of exections.			

What was your most significant takeaway from the Engagement Session?

On the right is a word cloud demonstrating the most occurring words in the participant's answers.

Here are some example answers:

"That FIBI is actually happening. we just need to prove we can do it better and I would think we would have an idea of how we would roll it out Not for profits."

"That NICHI is history in the making and that URN Indigenous need to continue now with education and advocacy for more housing related rights for URN Indigenous people, eg. access to free, serviceable land, land transfer tax exemptions, etc."

"That we are 1...not the 3 the government separates us into being, but 1 indigenous people together. That FIBI is the way forward. That hearing a land acknowledgement that includes a person's own nation is a POWERFUL thing."

"Extreme disappointment in how NICHI was formed. Process was not inclusive and seemed to privilege some organisations over others. Nichi needs to work on their governance structure and building trust among members across the country."

"NICHI is not ready to administer government funding."

Note: Several respondents wrote N/A or not applicable as their response.

## housing funding FIBI Indigenous need land NICHI



## What would you like to see at a future NICHI event?

Many of the improvement suggestions for the event were very positive and insightful. While some just said that everything was great, here are some key takeways from the participant's answers:

"More education and awareness around NICHI and also the right to housing for URN Indigenous, community consultation strategy for NICHI strategic planning."

"Comprehensive overview of how Not for Profits access these funds."

"More content relevant to smaller communities. I felt this gathering was geared to the cities."

"Members experiences that could be shared/ replicated."

"I really liked the event and felt it was well-run. Congratulations on pulling everything together so quickly! Going forward, NICHI need to work hard on widening the circle by communicating as broadly as possible with URN Indigenous groups."

"I would like to see the event be two days in length. Also provide a chance to meet the CEO and Executive Directors of the housing organizations in a meet n great social that would be 2 to 3 hours in length."

"Showcase world leading and innovative approaches to resolving housing and wrap around services that can be easily scaled and adopted by our membership."

While there are other answers that relate to small changes, a lot of these recommendations can be used going forward. Note, some participants skipped this question.

#### Question #6

#### Would you attend a future event like this?

The participants responded with over 80% wanting to attend another event like the Engagement session (20 yes), and the remainder declining to attend (4 no).

#### **Question #7**

#### Are you already a member or supporter of NICHI?

Of those who responded (one participant skipped this question), 63% of survey participants were current members of NICHI (15), and 37% were not (9).

#### **Question #8**

## If you are not already a member and would like to become one, please visit NICHI.ca to join.

Of the those who responded no to the above question, 13% or 3 participants agreed to become a member by visiting NICHI.ca, and 26% or 6 individuals declined to become a member.

#### Question #9

## For any additional comments, please add them here.

While the majority of respondents skipped this last question for any other thoughts they had, some added to their survey response. Here are some highlights:

"I believe there is an urgent need to keep signatories and the public updated with regular updates and continued education and advocacy on NICHI and its evolving role and ability to not only be a funding transfer agency, but true FIBI program design, delivery, governance and that capacity building and innovative program models."

"I want to thank you for igniting a spark in my team (Reaching Home at VNFC as CE) we feel siloed on the island from time to time and it was genuinely wonderful to be so included, embraced and for lack of a better term, legitimized. I have been recommending that organizations join and attend future conferences."

"The support offered to attend in person is a powerful message that NICHI wants the movement to be US. We here Salish Lelum/Tillicum Lelum were grateful for the generosity and opportunity to attend in person with support. Huy ch qa, Marsee and Miigwech"

"Went to the event to learn more about NICHI. Whether we become a member or supporter of NICHI will depend on the extent to which NICHI changes and how it changes. Federal funds should continue to be distributed by regional/local organizations that have the capacity and the experience to do so because NICHI remains non-existent aside from on paper. Waiting for NICHI actually to have the human resources and capability to complete this task may take years, and the money will remain frozen while housing solutions continue to be in dire need within the Indigenous population. Indigenous peoples cannot continue to wait."

#### In Conclusion

When looking at the survey results, some of the main takeaways are:

- There is a lot of excitement and eagerness from attendees and NICHI members on a *For Indigenous By Indigenous* approach to Urban, Rural, and Northern Housing.
- Active communication to members and the general public on the ongoing development of NICHI, particularly regarding funding streams and future application processes, build trust in the community.
- Engaging as many housing providers across the country as possible and increase the representation of smaller communities.
- The need for continual education and tools for advocacy for NICHI members.

#### APPENDIX 'D'

NICHI Engagement Session Invitation and Program





#### INTRODUCTION

Aanii and Welcome,

I am pleased to welcome everyone to the Inaugural NICHI Gathering and AGM. It marks our biggest collective step toward 'For Indigenous By Indigenous' solutions to urban, rural and northern Housing issues. Many of the advocates who got us to this point are here today and they have pushed hard to make the National Indigenous Collaborative Housing Inc. (NICHI) a reality. Our official launch was in Ottawa in February and since then NICHI has been recognized by the federal government and tapped to represent you. That means ensuring resources get to people, regardless of where they live, to improve housing and provide culturally appropriate services and in doing so, ensure people not just survive but thrive.

Today is your day. Your voice must be heard. The feedback you provide this day will shape our next steps toward taking control of our housing future. As leaders you are committed to not only bring change to your own community but to the broader urban, rural and northern Indigenous community as a whole. NICHI in turn is committed to working with you in finding Indigenous-led solutions and providing a critical advocacy role. We can do far more together than alone and your involvement will

make that a reality.

#### Miigwetchl

Jeff Loucks, Interim CEO of National Indigenous Collaborative Housing



#### VISION

All Indigenous people across Canada will have access to supports and services that provide safe, affordable, secure and dignified housing.

#### MISSION

Provide lasting solutions that increase access to affordable housing and end homelessness for Indigenous people living in urban, rural and northern areas through research, advocacy, partnerships and supporting housing providers in the building of homes. Relationships We acknowledge that every community and every project is mique. We seek to collaborate and support each community from a place of trust, transparency and respect.

VALUES

#### Respect

We respect & celebrate diverse Indigenous communities by recognizing their knowledge, traditions, teachings, worldview and way of being thereby ensuring all indigenous voices are heard including Elders, women, children, LOBPQ28+ and Persons with Disabilities.

#### Accountability

We act with integrity, holding one another responsible for achieving our Vision and adhering to our guiding principles.

#### Collabora

We work together through this coalition to ensure the well being of Indigenous peoples and our lands.

#### We build the community & achieve success through partnerships founded on integrity, trust and reciprocity, establishing relationships that are transformative, believing that knowledge is relational and connected to all creation.

#### Inclusivity

We affirm the worth of all Indigenous peoples and capitalize on the richness inherent in our differences seeking to develop and sustain relationships rooted in respect, trust and dignity.

#### Leadership

We lead by example, finding new ways to serve the interests of Indigenous housing and housing support providers.

#### Servici

We serve the Indigenous housing & support service providers, working with them in achieving their goals and sharing knowledge in a respectful way.

8:15 AM-9:00 AM 9:00 AM-9:15 AM	Registration Opens & Breakfast (Sponsored by National Assocation of Friendship Centres) Opening Ceremonies Keynote Address
9:00 AM-9:15 AM	Keynote Address
And and a second se	Damon Johnston
	Plenary Session & Panel Discussion Interim Board of Directors
	Governance Presentation Daniel Brant & Associates
	Refreshment Break & Entertainment (Sponsored by M'Akola Housing Society)
10:45 AM-12:00 PM	Break Out Sessions
	Lunch & Entertainment (sponsored by National Assocation of Friendship Centres)
1:15 PM-2:30 PM	Breakout Room Feedback and Q&A
	Refreshment Break & Entertainment (Sponsored by The Agency for Co-operative Housing
	NICHI's First Annual General Meeting Election of New Board
5:00 PM-5:15PM	Closing Ceremonies

AGENDA

art, and more! The vendor area will open at 12PM. **GUEST SPEAKERS** 



Damon Johnston President & CEO Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg

Johnston has been an advocate for and within the Aboriginal community for over 40 years. He was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba and is a member of the Fort William First Nation in Thunder Bay,

First Nation in Thunder Bay, Ontario. He has held the position of the President of the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg since 2007. Prior to this role, he was the Executive Director of the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre from the City of Winnipeg in 2005 where he served as the Community Resource Coordinator. Aboriginal Resource Coordinator, Aboriginal Community. He was employed with the City of Winnipeg for 15 years in various roles from 1990 to 2005.



#### Daniel Brant, PhD MASC MPA CAFM Proprieter Daniel Brant & Associates

Daniel Brant & Associates Daniel Brant & Associates The Bay of Quinte where he grew up and attended the Indian Day school on the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory in Southern Ontario. During his consulting carcer, he has worked on several engagements related to both on and off reserve housing program reviews, assisted in developing housing policies, advised NIO's on national housing policy, undertaken strategie housing policy for Urban, Rural and Notthern programs on a National basis, 'this work has allowed him the privilege of working with many Indigenous housing providers and leaders in almost all provinces and territorics in Canada.



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#### COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Women Helping Women Beadwork in Winnipeg

NICHI would like to highlight a special local intiative that reflects our own values and passion for commuty, Women Helping Women Beadwork.

This non-profit initiative is a labour of love started by Sandra Burling and her daughter Tryli Anderson that sells an assortment of beadwork crafted by incarcerated and newly-released women, with all proceeds going to the women's trust accounts to support them. Not only does this help with providing financial support, but a connection to culture and healing, as well as a greater sense of community.

Their journey was recently highlighted in the University of Winnipeg's publication The Uniter, <u>which you can visit here to learn more</u>, as well as support them by visiting their Instagram account @womenhelpingwomen\_beadwork!

#### Visit Our New Website!



Visit NICHI.ca today to learn more about us, support our organization, and get regular updates and news regarding NICHI and Indigenous housing!

#### **MIIGWETCH!**

Sponsors of NICHI's Engagement Session Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation National Association of Friendship Centres M'Akola Housing Society The Agency for Co-operative Housing

Bison Modular Homes Community Housing Transformation Centre

Special Thank You

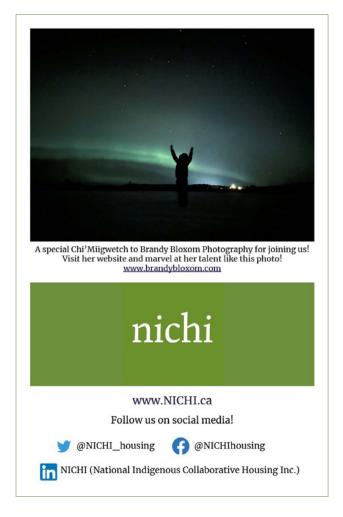
Canadian Housing and Renewal Association CHRA Indigenous Caucus Aboriginal Housing Management Association Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services Namerind Housing Corporation Delta Hotels by Marriot Winnipeg Raddison Hotel Winnipeg Downtown

> Damon Johnston Daniel Brant Jessica Iveson & Naomi Ratte Throat Singers Aboriginal School of Dance Métis entertainment

Encore Canada Brandy Bloxom Photography Smudge Services **Rekam Printing** Sign-a-field

Brandy Bloxom Designs Autumn Beard Brittany Grisdale Chevz Thredz Chevz Thredz Mary Oh Designs Red Rebel Armour Clothing Company Adora of Colours and Clouds Bath Blanche Chief

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#### **APPENDIX 'E'**

#### **NICHI Timeline**

### Timeline

#### 2013

Indigenous Caucus established at CHRA Congress on Housing 2013 Advocates for better housing for First Nations, Metis, Inuit in northern, urban, rural areas

15 signatories from western, northern regions, Ontario and Quebec

Formalized the National Urban, Rural & Northern Indigenous Housing Coalition

Nov. 2022

Dec. 2022

Incorporated as the National Indigenous Collaborative Housing Inc. (NICHI) Officially launched in Ottawa to address desperate, diverse needs

Feb. 2023

Signatories grew to 27 including Atlantic provinces

Apr. 2023

First AGM – Board elected

Website launched

55 Signatories

nichi

National Indigenous Collaborative Housing Inc.

Logement Coopératif National Autochtone Inc.