

URBAN NATIVE HOUSING at RISK

Quick Facts:

- Urban Native Housing program Operating Agreements are signed with the Federal Government of Canada
- 1,000's of tenants are housed under the Urban Native Housing Program across Canada
- Most Operating Agreements last 35 years
- The Agreements terminate when the mortgages are paid in full
- All subsidies terminate when the Agreements terminate
- Some Agreements have already terminated and more are terminating in the near future.
- When the Agreements terminate, Urban Native Housing providers **do not have subsidies** available to offer rents based on income. Tenants are required to pay Market Rents, or move.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT NATIVE PEOPLE OF
SUDBURY DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION
68 Xavier Street,
Sudbury, Ontario P3C 2B9
(705) 674-9996
1-800-300-6713
info@nativehousing.org

Established in the 1980's, the Urban Native Housing (UNH) program was established to assist low-income Indigenous families and individuals secure safe, affordable and decent housing in urban settings. The UNH program is designed to counter the effects of racism and discrimination frequently encountered by Indigenous people when attempting to find a place in which to live and raise a family in cities across Canada.

As the majority of Indigenous people now live in urban centers, the need for rent geared-to-income social housing for Indigenous peoples in Sudbury and in cities right across Canada has been increasing over the last several decades. In their 2009 report, the National Aboriginal Housing Association indicated that the incidence of housing need among the non-reserve Aboriginal population is longstanding and is presently over 20% compared to 12.4% among non-Aboriginal people. In Sudbury alone, the average waiting list for Indigenous social housing is between 300 to 500 people in any given month.

The federal government through Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) recognized and sought to address urban Indigenous housing challenges by developing the Urban Native Housing program in the 1980s, but it discontinued the program in 1993. The program allowed for the purchase of existing and the construction of new homes to be rented to Status, Non-Status, Inuit and Métis people based on household income. Today, most of the long-term mortgages and rent subsidies included in the UNH program operating agreements between CMHC and Urban Native Housing organizations across the country are coming to an end.

This is a dire situation which will without doubt lead to an increase in both the number of evictions and homelessness experienced by Indigenous people living in cities. According to the 2014 City of Sudbury Report Card on Homelessness, Aboriginal people already account for nearly half (44%) of the 1,419 people experiencing homelessness in Sudbury. This is a long standing social crisis that will only intensify locally and nationally over the next 3 to 8 years as all the agreements come to an end, and even more Indigenous people choose to attend college and university, seek employment, and raise their families in the city.

Native People of Sudbury Development Corporation and other Urban Native Housing program organizations are calling for the immediate renewal of funding for expired operating agreements. In addition, we are calling for further public investment in capital improvements and additional housing units in order to respond to existing unmet needs for affordable housing for Indigenous people living in cities across Canada.

Reasons to renew funding for expired

Operating

Agreements:

- Existing social housing stock is maintained.
- Tenants are not forced to pay higher Market Rents or move because the rent is too high.
- Subsidies for renewed agreements will be lower because mortgage costs are eliminated.

