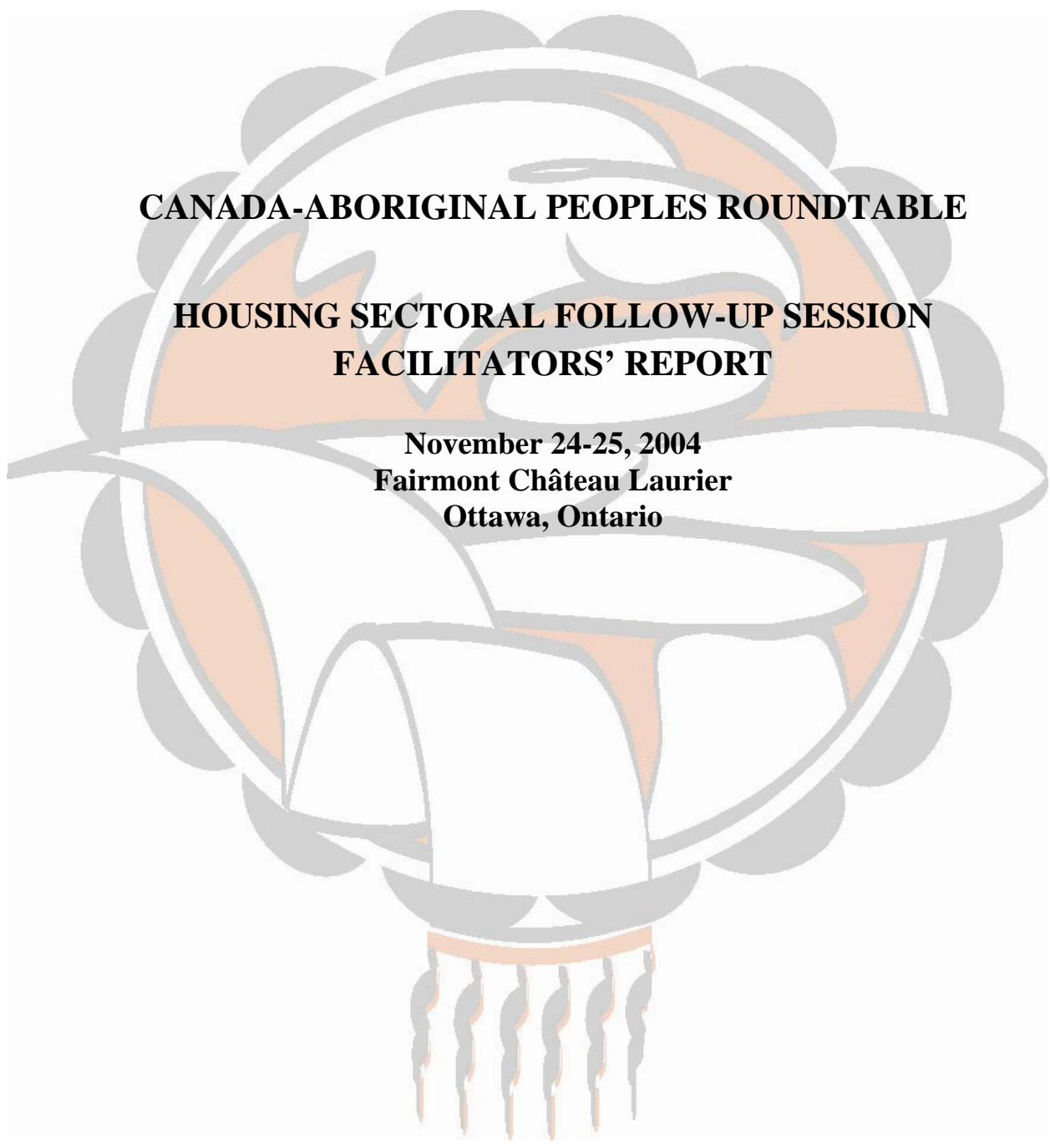




**CANADA-ABORIGINAL PEOPLES ROUNDTABLE**

**HOUSING SECTORAL FOLLOW-UP SESSION  
FACILITATORS' REPORT**

**November 24-25, 2004  
Fairmont Château Laurier  
Ottawa, Ontario**







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## 1) INTRODUCTION

The November 24-25, 2004 Sectoral Follow-up Session on Housing was the fourth in a series of sessions intended to fulfill the commitment made by Prime Minister Paul Martin at the conclusion of the April 19, 2004 Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable on Strengthening the Relationship. The sectoral follow-up sessions are intended to explore new and innovative ideas through which the Government of Canada and national Aboriginal leaders can work together to close the quality of life gap between Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians. In addition to Housing, sectoral follow-up sessions were convened for Health, Lifelong Learning (i.e. Early Childhood Development and Kindergarten to Grade 12; Post-secondary Education and Skills Training), Economic Opportunities, Negotiations and Accountability for Results.

Following the distribution of the report on the April 19, 2004 Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable, the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat (AAS) within the Privy Council Office (PCO) established an overall Planning Committee to develop the proposed sectoral follow-up sessions. The Planning Committee comprised five National Aboriginal Organizations, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the Métis National Council (MNC), the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP), and the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC); key federal departments and agencies that serve as lead departments or have related

responsibilities (e.g. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Health Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), Industry Canada, Treasury Board Secretariat, etc.); and provincial and territorial officials.

A Planning Subcommittee on housing chaired by the lead department, in this case CMHC, and comprising a similar combination of federal, Aboriginal, and provincial/territorial members, applied the session planning guidelines established by the overall Planning Committee to the particular needs of the housing field. The Planning Subcommittee responsibilities included:

- identification of policy priority topics, focus questions and the agenda to guide discussions at the session;
- development of background papers to provide participants with an overview of key issues (available on-line);
- selection of participants and officials (observers); and
- review of the facilitators' report on the session.

The Housing Sectoral Follow-up Session was designed to bring experts and practitioners together to put forth new and innovative suggestions for improving housing for Aboriginal peoples and discuss how those ideas or recommended actions could be implemented to achieve on-the-ground success. It was agreed at the Planning Committee that the sectoral sessions be open to an exploration of a wide range of ideas that could inform subsequent work, rather than seek to achieve consensus



on any particular idea or position.

The housing session objective established by the Planning Subcommittee was to provide an opportunity for participants to contribute to the development of recommended actions to improve housing for First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in the key policy areas of:

- jurisdiction, control and governance;
- housing supply;
- housing quality; and
- affordability (access to home ownership and rental housing).

The five National Aboriginal Organizations (NAOs) each identified 10 participants (i.e. five core and five sectoral experts) from their organizations and/or communities at all levels. The participants lists (Annex B) indicate that there were a total of 107 participants at the Housing Sectoral Follow-up Session. Each NAO, the federal government, and provincial and territorial governments sent officials to the session to provide support to their selected participants and report back on the discussions.

The results from the technical discussions at the sectoral follow-up session are contained in this facilitators' report. The report is based on the flip chart notes prepared by the participants and facilitators during the session and a template approved by the overall Planning Committee. All flip charts were transcribed verbatim and are contained in the web link to Annex C of this report.

***As a practical matter, it is not possible to reflect every idea placed on the flip charts during the breakout group in the narrative of this report. The facilitation team has***

***attempted to draft in a manner that highlights the content of the flip charts as succinctly and objectively as possible. As a result, this report is designed to be read in tandem with the detailed ideas contained in the flip chart notes.***

As well, discussion built on the content of background papers prepared in advance of the sectoral session. In specific cases this meant that recommendations included in the discussion papers were not always expanded on or discussed in the breakout groups. It is therefore essential that this report also be read in conjunction with the background papers, which can be found on the Internet at <http://www.aboriginalroundtable.ca>

The discussions themselves, this report, the facilitators' reports from the six other scheduled sectoral follow-up sessions, and the facilitators' final roll-up report on all seven sectoral sessions are intended to support and inform ongoing discussions leading to:

- a spring 2005 policy retreat with members of the Cabinet Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, national Aboriginal leaders, and provincial/territorial representatives<sup>1</sup>; and
- a fall 2005 First Ministers' Meeting (FMM) on Aboriginal Issues.

It is anticipated that the participating governments and organizations may develop their own reports and analysis of the sectoral

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<sup>1</sup> Discussions are ongoing with provinces and territories regarding their participation in the planned spring policy retreat and this matter will be clarified as work proceeds toward this proposed initiative.



sessions. It is also understood that the brainstorming at the sectoral session in no way commits any particular government or organization to the discussion of any particular idea at the upcoming political forums.

## 2) OVERALL SUMMARY OF THE SESSION

### Workshop Methodology

Each sectoral session was carried out primarily in breakout groups where the participants were organized into three distinct groupings: First Nations, Inuit and Métis. The participant's lists indicate that there were 40 participants in the First Nations breakout group; 33 participants in the Inuit breakout group; and 34 participants in the Métis breakout group. The priority policy issues on the agenda were reordered with the distinct breakout groups addressing them as follows:

- housing supply;
- housing quality;
- affordability (access to home ownership and rental housing); and
- issues of jurisdiction, control and governance.

Launch questions for each theme were provided to participants on the agenda prior to the session to serve as a guide, to help focus discussion, and to help achieve the session objectives. Facilitators used the launch questions in tandem with other process questions to help participants drill

down in their discussions when making recommendations. Where time permitted, participants were asked to apply short-, medium- and long-term time frames to their recommended actions and prepare key message summaries of their small group discussions and recommended actions.

Within each of the above discussions and at the end of each day participants were asked to provide input into:

- recommended actions;
- how we will work together with other stakeholders; and
- how we will know that we are making progress.

Participants were also tasked to apply two "lenses" for each of the aforementioned themes. The lenses provided for the inclusion of perspectives on issues of gender equality and geographic residence (i.e. urban, rural, remote and northern). At the request of participants, a third lenses—that of people living with disabilities—was also discussed. Generally, the questions around the lenses were as follows:

- Do the statements provide Aboriginal (i.e. First Nations, Inuit, Métis) women an opportunity to participate and/or address issues of concern to their housing status?
- Have the needs and concerns of Aboriginal peoples (i.e. First Nations, Métis, Inuit) in urban and northern/remote situations been addressed?



- Have the needs of Aboriginal people living with disabilities been addressed?

Each breakout group was facilitated by two co-facilitators selected from a list of names recommended by the National Aboriginal Organizations during the planning process. For each theme, facilitators used a variety of facilitation exercises to maximize input and output from participants. The facilitation exercises were adapted to fit the circumstances, such as time allotment, number of participants, size of the breakout room, and theme subject. In most cases, the exercises involved smaller groupings to gain greater involvement from all participants. The co-facilitators were also flexible in responding to the needs and issues identified by the breakout group participants. This resulted in slight variations between breakout sessions.

It should also be noted that each workshop day was opened and closed by three Elders representing the First Nations, Inuit and Métis. Their opening and closing remarks and invocations were often instrumental in setting the tone for the workshop and participants.

### **Overall Summary**

Most of the participants voiced concern indicating that a pan-Aboriginal<sup>2</sup> approach was not supported. However, all three

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<sup>2</sup> pan-Aboriginal is a term describing an approach that is applied to all Aboriginal peoples and groups regardless of nation, distinct identity, geographic location, gender or status.

breakout groups indicated that they would continue to meet with other Aboriginal partners on common issues. While participants in each of the breakout groups (i.e. First Nations, Inuit and Métis) provided distinct recommendations, there were some that were similar in nature. The following is a brief look at the similarities between the three breakout groups.

### ***Supply***

All breakout groups agreed that there is a critical and immediate housing crisis for Aboriginal people. Impacts from the shortfall of housing units include detrimental affects to the safety, health and well-being of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. This crisis requires funding, the involvement of all levels of government, and the direct involvement of Aboriginal people in creating and administering housing policies and programs. There is a need for both urban and rural funding and programs, and capacity to accommodate persons with disabilities, women and those who are in transition, such as the homeless and elderly. It is important to account for demographics and geographic issues, which affect every aspect of housing including accessibility, labour and maintenance costs, life cycle of units and maintenance.

### ***Quality***

Aboriginal people need a voice in the development of construction standards. Training and apprenticeship programs are necessary to ensure that Aboriginal people can build and maintain housing units. Environmental issues, including sewage disposal, clean water and safe houses, are



critical considerations. High-quality, maintenance-free materials with long life cycles should be used in all new construction and upgrades to existing units. Funding must take into consideration geographic impacts, particularly in the cost of servicing land and buildings in remote locations.

### ***Affordability (access to home ownership and rental housing)***

There is a need for affordable ways to attain home ownership and transition from renting to owning homes. Affordable housing is critical for the elderly, the homeless, women and people living with disabilities. Innovative and creative solutions, including financing mechanisms, are important to address the issues of people dealing with poverty, and poor or no credit ratings. Viable housing markets are required in small and remote communities.

### ***Issues of jurisdiction, control and governance***

Federal, provincial and municipal governments need to negotiate and collaborate with Aboriginal people to resolve the housing crisis and prepare for the needs of a growing population. The transfer of dollars to Aboriginal people must be accompanied by the ability to make decisions on delivery, policy and implementation. Jurisdiction for housing is to be based on nation-to-nation discussions and self-government models. Women and people living with disabilities must be included in all consultations.

## **3) SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS**

In summarizing the breakout group discussions it is important to remember that each breakout group was facilitated in a style that would respond to the group's expectations and ideas. For example, in the First Nations breakout room the session began with an opportunity for participants to share their key messages with one another. This practice was not necessarily done in the Inuit or Métis breakout groups in the same order or approach. Therefore, while reading the report there will be some differences in the report headings and titles. Also the language used in many of the bullet summaries was not altered or changed in order to respect the statements as recorded on the flip charts. However, if context was required to clarify meaning or interpretation some contextualising was done.

### **i) FIRST NATIONS BREAKOUT GROUP**

At the start of each workshop, participants within the First Nations breakout group were given the opportunity to share key messages in a plenary setting. There were contributions from all participants on the first day. On the second day, several participants volunteered statements and/or observations for the record. The following summary of these comments for both days is organized within themes, however it may be noted that comments may fit into more than one theme.





## **Key Messages**

### ***Housing Supply and Construction Issues***

Participants voiced concern about the continued shortfall in housing for First Nations (80,000 units), which results in overcrowding and detrimental outcomes for communities. Some examples of research in housing that have identified short-, medium- and long-term solutions can be found in Quebec and British Columbia.

### ***Women, Urban and Disability Housing Issues***

Participants raised issues specifically dealing with the lack of housing stock for First Nations women and children. Some comments indicated that the lack of housing in the community has triggered violent situations in the home which in turn has contributed to women being pushed into shelters or crisis situations. A critical response is to ensure that life and safety in the home is respected in housing policy for women and children. Housing policy must also address affordability issues and provide support for First Nations persons with disabilities and seniors and address homelessness. More collaborative participation is required to bridge the gap between First Nations men and women living both on and off reserve.

### ***Capacity and Action Support***

Individuals spoke about greater emphasis required on building capacity and skills within the housing sector from construction, maintenance and administration. More funding needs to be allocated to support

increased partnerships, educational efforts and consultations. Participants recommend that more human resource training for all housing stakeholders is required. Housing stakeholders want to work more closely together, hear the success stories and construction outcomes and help learn from one another. Another suggestion was the establishment of trades and building expertise associations for First Nations.

### ***Innovation and Solutions for Housing Issues***

Many comments shared seem to agree that innovative solutions that are creative and unique will be required to address the First Nations housing crisis. Some of these approaches were shared, such as creating a First Nations home ownership program, and examining the innovative housing examples used for Yukon First Nations. One suggestion indicated that housing policy needs to be divided into two streams—social housing and market housing. The Canadian Real Estate Association indicated their interest in learning more about the housing needs of First Nations in order to support and increase home ownership approaches.

### ***Financial Support and Policy Implementation***

The majority of comments were directed around the need for significantly new investment of resources within the housing sector to address the current housing crisis. The infusion of funding should be long term (10-year commitment) and coincide with new housing policy supporting the new funding levels. Specifically, it was recommended by First Nations



representatives that the housing allocation budget requires a \$1 billion investment as proposed in the AFN's pre-budget submission, and \$400 million annually directed to support housing, infrastructure and community buildings.

### ***Jurisdiction and Treaty Rights***

Participants acknowledged that housing is seen as a Treaty right to shelter. The jurisdiction of housing should be within the control of First Nations. It was further suggested that First Nations need to examine the various roles of government, including departments such as INAC and CMHC.

### **Housing Supply**

#### **Launch Question**

***How can the factors affecting the current supply of housing be addressed in ways that increase availability for Aboriginal peoples in their diverse circumstances?  
Short-term recommendations***

The focus for many of the short-term recommendations dealt with the backlog of housing units (80,000) and existing units (70,000) that require repair and maintenance. Contributing to the immediate situation is lack of funding, policy that is not helpful for both on and off reserve and responding to growing demographics. The recommendations also address issues relating to women and violence, matrimonial property and accessible housing for persons with disabilities.

- Current housing stock allocation should be increased significantly.

- An immediate comprehensive housing survey is needed.
- Immediate federal budget over five years to address current housing backlog is needed.
- Reinstate the federal policy and program for off-reserve Indian Housing Policy.
- The federal government should increase the section 95 allocations.
- Specific policy, regulations and legislative changes are needed immediately to deal with income threshold, social policy devolution, rent control versus market control, matrimonial property rights for First Nations women, violence and family abuse, and disability issues.
- Create a housing negotiating table for housing policy review and renewal, and for strategy and action plan development.

### ***Medium- and long-term recommendations***

A significant portion of medium- and long-term recommendations addressed urban and off-reserve housing concerns for First Nations as well as issues related to women.

- There is a need for data collection that would give information on urban members to help formulate a comprehensive housing plan.
- Plan on the long-term continuum for urban and rural and homelessness shelter and housing units.
- Include counselling support systems for urban and rural tenants.
- New models for funding urban, rural, northern and reserve are needed.



- Support a housing conference that is more comprehensive and would bring together all stakeholders, Aboriginal and First Nations, trades, private sector and governments.
- Look at solutions and practical approaches (workshops) to incorporate traditional forms of housing (e.g. communal and community based approaches).
- First Nations housing ombudsman is needed to mediate disputes between government and First Nations.
- Create housing policies that require the perpetrator to leave rather than force women to leave.
- Create landlord registry and increase program incentives to improve rental units.
- Determine if First Nations require Indian and Northern Affairs Canada or Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.
- Review implication of Treaty rights to shelter, including Aboriginal, and enforce.
- First Nations and Aboriginals must be involved in all decision making regarding housing.
- Home ownership for women, housing for students and older women are needed.
- Support matrimonial property rights for First Nations women on reserve.
- Create more shelters for women.

### **Housing Quality**

#### **Launch Question**

***What strategic approaches can be pursued to reduce deficiencies and improve the***

#### ***quality of housing available to Aboriginal people?***

Participants focused on health, planning, renovation/maintenance, new stock, capacity, transportation/cost of materials, and the inspection process as the critical issues for dealing with housing quality. Specific recommendations included the following:

- housing health determinants need to be comprehensive to deal with mold, vermiculite and over-crowding issues;
- National Building Code (NBC) designed to achieve higher rather than minimum building standards;
- establish First Nations Task Force to review the NBC for design, durability, cultural appropriateness, environmental (e.g. higher air exchange for higher occupancy and undersized sewers);
- qualified assessment of housing stock to address emergency issues dealing with women and children, persons with disabilities (e.g. change Residential Rehabilitations Assistance Program and Emergency Repair Program);
- for new stock, ensure that standards and compliance are consistently interpreted; have insurance; train inspectors and builders; have warranty protection; these need to reflect the reality and geographic location, analysis of cost-effective transportation and locations and facilities to store bulk purchases;
- planning and training sessions that include leadership, Council, managers, tenants, counsellors, inspectors, builders, maintenance, inspectors, health and environmental stakeholders;



- long-term planning that includes future demands, maintenance, renovations, emergencies, replacements, partnerships, flexible housing (e.g. multi-generational housing, finances);
- apply “real costs” policy versus Indian and Northern Affairs Canada current policy;
- annual maintenance for housing;
- support financial options, such as creative tools to look at funding without ministerial approval, flexible income levels for financial guarantees (\$5,000), Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to provide competitive rates for financing;
- do bulk purchasing, have freight subsidies, more modular housing and use local materials;
- create incentives to promote partnerships and joint ventures (e.g. taxation);
- large First Nations construction companies service many First Nations in the area, vertical integration of supplies/manufacture and service to keep the funding flow to First Nations companies;
- more educational support and information workshops for occupants in their homes;
- create appropriate housing size for persons with disabilities and seniors;
- more capacity support and training in all areas of housing from construction to administration;
- create First Nations Housing Authorities; and
- pool inspectors by region with appropriate authorities.

## **Housing Affordability**

### Launch Question

*What are the key issues that affect housing affordability and what systemic adjustments and supports are required to enable access by Aboriginal people to affordable homes?*

Participants recommended a number of cost-saving approaches while emphasizing that the federal fiduciary responsibility for housing must be fulfilled. Some of the key recommendations made are as follows:

- design an Aboriginal Habitat for Humanity approach (community driven);
- economic ventures with First Nations around lumber mills, pre-fabricated housing factories;
- build different types of houses on and off reserve (e.g. multi-unit, seniors and special needs);
- create investment opportunities for communities to invest back into housing;
- security on reserve knowing the standard of housing is sound;
- an institution of housing authority for on and off reserve;
- increase land base with reserve status, portability of rights;
- address city land tenure and other options for sources of equity;
- allow First Nations Housing Authorities to implement policies to serve a range of incomes;
- trades and training in the trades (local capacity will affect affordability);



- employment and unemployment (high dependence on social assistance directly affects affordability);
- education and local capacity;
- limited financial options and mechanisms available; and
- federal policy assessment (1996 Housing Policy, 1998 Gathering Strength policy) will lead to adjustments/supports required to enable access to affordable homes, (e.g. Ministerial Loan Guarantees, Section 95, leads to increased debt).

### **Jurisdiction, Governance and Control**

#### Launch Question

*What institutional framework and collaborative approaches are needed to address the diversity of jurisdictional issues that impact on the ability of Aboriginal peoples to exercise control and governance over how their housing needs are met?*

#### *Jurisdiction*

- Jurisdiction to First Nations means full control of housing.
- First Nations want full administrative authority and jurisdiction over programs.
- Recognition of who makes the policy (First Nations/Aboriginal).
- A legislative base for First Nations that includes resources, institutional and policy authorities is required;
- Transitional planning should occur to support and sustain unexpected situations.
- Work together (both on and off reserve) to meet the needs of Aboriginal Housing Authorities.

- Tripartite agreements are needed for housing.
- Revisit the understanding of fiduciary.
- First Nations need the ability and authority to respond and act on policy.

#### ***Control***

- Evolve policies to accommodate the different needs and housing situations for First Nations.
- Policy regulation is required that will respect family interests, custody of children, possession of residence.
- First Nations housing corporations to coordinate on- and off-reserve policies.
- Policy must reflect legal precedence (*Delgamuukw, Sparrow, Marshall*).
- Concrete targets and indicators for housing policy and program delivery are needed.
- Refer to the Royal Commission for Aboriginal Peoples (1996) and Auditor General Reports (specifically the 2003 report on housing).
- Put a cap on income for housing assistance (e.g. not eligible if resources are \$100,000).
- Support smaller communities in a more whole way through help from well-off communities.
- Support all Aboriginal housing societies and their mandates, structures and delivery of services in the housing sector.
- Overcrowding in housing leads to other social problems, such as mental and physical health and violence issues, therefore more units are required to eliminate this problem.



## ***Governance***

- Examine and use the self-governance model in B.C. Since 2001 the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) has been managing provincial social housing stock, and will include rural housing too; the relationship with the province will advance flow-through agreements.
- Careful not to create funding competition between on- and off-reserve housing groups.
- Need to review a wide range of models and options to fit community needs.
- Governance model must include accountability back to the First Nations community.
- Reporting relationship with government only.
- Create regional and local housing bodies with adequate funding to be competitive with salaries and benefits.
- The National Housing model is a living concept that can adapt as needs are raised.
- Multi-year funding is needed.
- Administration budgets need to have flow-through agreements and authorities.
- Funding challenges affect administration (e.g. difference between unionized/non-unionized, labour/skilled support; salaries and benefits are not competitive).
- Revenue stream and broader approaches to encourage use of tax immunity to keep resources circulating in the community.

- Housing governance needs to be community driven and bureaucracy reduced with adequate funding.
- Capacity building and training for housing skills in administration are needed.
- Legislative framework that transfers resources and authorities.
- Keep tenant counselling as part of Aboriginal housing.

## **Making Progress**

### Launch Question

***How will we know progress is being made (First Nations, government and others)?***

### ***First Nations***

- First Nations involved fully in every step leading to and including policy retreat and First Ministers' Meeting (FMM);
- First Nations strategy with timelines and milestones leading to input to the Policy Retreat and First Ministers' Meeting;
- build additional housing units, increase units and clear backlog;
- establishment of local housing authorities and new infrastructure within First Nations communities;
- transition team to support new housing targets for building units;
- economic impact assessments of all delivery system; and
- capacity development in the housing sector.



## ***Government***

- February 2005 federal budget announces at least \$1 billion for on-reserve housing and infrastructure;
- federal government agrees to First Nations/federal negotiating table/process to discuss regime change and new approach;
- recognizing the need for a national housing strategy;
- providing realistic funding for our needs;
- Prime Minister promised National Housing Conference at the April 19, 2004 Roundtable;
- increase in housing units and backlog cleared;
- resources made available for new infrastructure, making true commitments;
- immediate April 5 injection of new capital funding to construct 80,000 units over a five-year period;
- commit to a five-year strategy; and
- continuum of programs to reduce gaps.

## ***Others***

- public informed of new approach/commitments through joint (First Nations and Prime Minister) press release in February 2005 (budget time);
- united front by all First Nations peoples;
- profitable business partnerships;
- access to resources;
- agreed upon statistics for First Nations housing;
- housing for on- and off-reserve peoples;
- create better health determinants for housing;

- building units based on demographic and population of First Nations; and
- devolution revisited.

## **Crosscutting Lens**

The lens question was asked in each segment of the workshop, asking for input on the needs and concerns of First Nation peoples living in urban and off-reserve circumstances; women; and persons with disabilities. Participants incorporated their responses into recommended actions previously noted in this summary. Highlights of the recommendations that touch upon the crosscutting lens include:

- acknowledgement and support for urban and off-reserve housing with a coordinated effort between the on- and off-reserve First Nations;
- one model will not fit all; a commitment to look at two streams of funding and/or different models to support all First Nations housing needs regardless of geographic location;
- women must have access to safe housing that is secure, matrimonial rights on reserve must be resolved, more shelters and greater access to them are needed, women must be part of the decision-making process on housing;
- overcrowding in housing has led to family violence;
- persons with disabilities must have access and input into appropriately designed housing to meet their needs; and
- additional funding and capacity support is required for women, off-reserve housing societies and persons with disabilities to build sustainable housing.



## ii) INUIT BREAKOUT GROUP

### Key Messages

Participants were given an opportunity to articulate key messages regarding Inuit housing, and provided the following comments:

- Inuit are Aboriginal people and should have their own housing program, specific to their needs. Inuit should not need to fit into non-Aboriginal housing programs;
- new technologies for northern housing are needed and must be explored and incorporated into the architectural planning, (e.g. renewable energy). One of the questions we need to ask ourselves is how can we build houses that better reflect needs of Inuit?
- when reviewing the requirements for increased Inuit housing, the acute shortage and overcrowding of houses should be considered. Partnerships among different stakeholders need to be developed to address housing needs;
- housing is part of a larger holistic approach to social conditions. Fairer and more equitable distribution of housing is required. Government must acknowledge its responsibilities for Inuit housing;
- the needs of youth related to various issues, such as a quiet place to study, must be addressed. They are often at the bottom of the housing list for getting their own house. Better construction methods are needed as well as more financial resources;

- the Government of Canada should work with Inuit organizations, provinces and territory stakeholders to design appropriate Inuit-specific housing policy and programs;
- the Government of Canada must commit funds to Inuit organizations to develop an Inuit housing strategy by June 2005, including governance and institutional capacity building; and
- in the meantime, the Government of Canada must facilitate access to resources and take action now. Housing is a federal responsibility, therefore the Government of Canada must live up to its obligations agreed to in the land claims and in the Constitution.

### Housing Supply

#### Launch Question

*How can the factors affecting the current supply of housing be addressed in ways that increase availability for Inuit peoples in their diverse circumstances?*

Numerous critical issues were identified including:

- lack of employment prohibits access to housing (owning your own home);
- in some communities/towns, owning and/or leasing property to build on has been an issue, and needs to be addressed;
- due to lack of infrastructure (e.g. no roads to the North), there are obstacles related to supplying materials to the communities. As a result, everything depends on the sealift. Costs in supplies





and equipment increase the cost of building houses and, therefore, is a big factor in planning the housing needs of Inuit. There is an urgent need to develop and support local suppliers for construction, as well to be able to manufacture products in the northern regions so that locally manufactured products (e.g. trusses, cabinets, windows, doors, modular housing components) will be available.

Construction in the North is very seasonal and has had a huge impact on the time required for constructing houses;

- there is also a need for an airline subsidy for urgent needs such as windows, furnaces, hot water tanks, and emergency supplies for maintaining and repairing houses. These would be similar to the subsidies available for food and mail. Bulk buying for supplies is needed;
- funding for Inuit housing has not been at par or comparable to housing resources that are received by other Aboriginal groups in the south. Inuit are forced into the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation non-Aboriginal housing programs with no funding from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada whereas the First Nations housing programs are funded from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and delivered through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Per capita allocations do not address the needs due to the high cost of building in the North. Regional considerations are important where costs, culture, climate and other considerations are factored into the planning. The present process of

identifying the needs is not working.

Address the backlog of housing requirements;

- due to the harsh climate and extreme cold, the life span of existing houses/units is an issue. Houses deteriorate at a much faster rate in the North;
- a hidden homelessness exists in northern homes. In many cases a two-bedroom home will have many occupants where individuals have no place to sleep. This overcrowding/homelessness often affects youth. Better and adequate housing for elders is needed (e.g. mobility issues need to be factored in);
- there are many Inuit, including single women with children, living in urban areas in southern Canada who are homeless. This must be included in the planning for Inuit housing. Inuit-specific approaches are also required in urban areas. There is a need for appropriately designed, environmentally friendly, healthy homes for Inuit that are durable and energy efficient;
- when addressing northern housing needs, a holistic approach is needed. Adequate and proper housing should be seen as an investment in education and health. Appropriately designed housing for the North (i.e. healthy homes) is needed;
- the high birth rate in the Arctic needs to be considered during the planning for the long term, for both the supplies and the number of units/houses needed to meet the housing shortage;
- innovative financing is needed for renovations, better homes, new homes and capital; and



- maintenance issues are also critical due to costs and supplies. Having trained individuals in the communities is also essential; Inuit need to learn and be trained on what owning a house means, and there needs to be a broad range of solutions to address the complex issues.

### ***Financing issues***

- Up until now, the funding received for housing has not resulted in efficient and durable houses. There is a backlog for new housing that must be addressed, and a need for an immediate assessment/survey of present units (e.g. to determine maintenance costs, repairs, modifications to seniors/disabled housing, etc.). Over time, there has been a decrease in federal funding, and this must stop. There is an urgent need for block funding, as well as increased funds, so that there is a real increase in the number of houses built that are long lasting and energy efficient. There should be a distinction between capital versus operating costs.
- There is a need for houses and a new funding formula must be conceived that considers “beyond bricks and mortar” (e.g. units are built presently but there is no money set aside to assist with the operation of the units).
- Cost formulas for the North, subsidies for building, shipping and landscape, financing. Capacity to support Inuit businesses and capacity for inspections are needed.

- Inuit need to be assisted with programs and subsidies to educate themselves on the financial issues associated with home ownership (e.g. efforts and programs that encourage home ownership can leave people—Elders and persons with disabilities—in financial jeopardy).
- There is also the remoteness factor to consider. The funding formula must take into account the cost of living in the Arctic region (prorated for this). Federal funding should reflect the true cost of building in the region. Access to resources must be compatible with on-reserve funding with the northern factor incorporated. Therefore, a federal policy or initiative for Inuit is needed.
- As well, all the obligations in the different land claims agreements must be fulfilled. Partnership agreements must be developed and implemented with INAC, CMHC and regional Inuit groups (land claims organizations or Inuit representative organizations). With regard to financing options, lending institutions are scarce in the North. The Government of Canada must acknowledge and take its fiduciary responsibility seriously.

### ***Land availability***

- The transfer of land ownership from the federal government to the territories and municipalities has been slow. The process of transferring land should be accelerated. In order to stimulate the economy and the private sector, private land ownership should be allowed. The parties should revisit the process



established for control and ownership within land claims agreements and government policies (long-term discussion). For example, in Iqaluit, programs that encourage home ownership can leave people in financial jeopardy related to leases and property tax. A solution could be subsidies for homeowners (e.g. Elders' tax exemptions). Funding should be available to municipalities for lot development as well as capacity to be able to increase the ability to handle lot allocations.

#### ***Appropriate/available housing for Elders and persons with disabilities***

- Make housing available that is appropriate for Elders and persons with disabilities. Access issues haven't been dealt with properly. There should be a review to identify barriers and explore ways to better design units.

#### ***Infrastructure (long-term plan for all Inuit regions)***

- The Arctic has always depended on the sealift for the delivery of building supplies. In order to alleviate the high cost of construction, there should be a subsidy created for the sealift.
- There is a lack of a local construction industry, as well as local technology development for a specific northern context. Under the Federal Research and Development Initiative, a northern demonstration program aimed at research and development on northern housing technology should be

undertaken. Stronger partnerships among the three levels of governments and Inuit organizations must be established in order to look toward addressing policy and funding criteria issues. This will improve maintenance services and lower costs. A trained workforce is required. To achieve this, more vocational training opportunities in the Inuit regions for Inuit are needed.

#### ***Supply issue***

- A mobile trades training unit is needed in order cut down on the long distance travel to get an education for apprenticeships, journeymen, local contractors and skilled labour.
- Encouragement is needed for ownership and training that is geared toward the area of infrastructure by setting up a support system. This will create the following: more infrastructure for the delivery of goods/transportation; a stable economy; more Inuit-managed business; training opportunities; availability of supplies year round; and affordability.
- A support system with financing options is required for participants and families who have to travel for training. There is often a language barrier in training Inuit, therefore training should take place in the official language of the participants. Often life skills, training do not include money management. Money management training should be taught in earlier grades (e.g. how to be a good tenant, management of a household, personal budget, long-term planning).



- Promotion of careers is a must in the housing construction workforce (e.g. mentoring programs, role models, pilot programs, mobile career shows). Research and development is key for northern-specific technologies, electricity and energy.

### ***Gender issue***

- Women should be listed as co-tenants along with their spouses to ensure their ability to keep their housing unit should their partner have to leave it. This would provide more shelters and safe homes, second-stage housing and more social housing. Marshalling resources is required in order to have funds available for awareness about women's issues and housing needs, mentorship programs and education, and to develop local capacity by providing opportunities. This will help develop and utilize local resources that will support the local economy and help individuals to stay in the North.

### ***Urban issues***

- Develop and identify Inuit-specific funding for Inuit housing in urban areas. Make funding agencies and government aware of the cultural differences of the Inuit.
- Homelessness is a critical issue. There is a need for more access to single parent units since there is a very high population of single mothers with children. In addition, supportive housing such as women's shelters, stage two housing, Inuit-specific halfway houses and transitional housing is required.

- Clarification is essential in the distinction between Inuit, Métis and First Nations for programs being delivered to Aboriginal people living in urban areas.

### **Housing Quality**

#### **Launch Question**

***What strategic approaches can be pursued to reduce deficiencies and improve the quality of housing available to Aboriginal peoples?***

Many of the key issues were identified in the Housing Supply discussion, and for the purposes of this report, they are not repeated in this section. The following recommendations were highlighted.

#### ***Quality of homes***

- There are serious effects related to poor quality housing, such as overcrowding in homes and poor education, as well as health, social and financial stress. Health issues related to the effects of too much moisture, poor ventilation and regional construction considerations, including building standards, require urgent attention.
- Regional inspectors are needed and standardization and economies of scale factored in. Environment/land sensitivity, climate change, high wind environment have to be considered.
- Adequate social housing with design flexibility which will allow for culturally appropriate models, such as height of kitchen counters, is needed.



- There is a need to establish an Inuit National Housing Board that would consider such issues as appropriate land use, foundations, sustainable development, landscape-low ecological footprint, community design and trade certification.

### ***Capacity and design***

- There is a call for championing and supporting the development of Inuit-owned businesses. Encourage the use of non-profit organizations to construct houses. An example is a land claims organization such as Makivik finding innovative ways to build more houses while minimizing the costs.
- There is a need to stretch out the construction season to maximize local employment and use of local equipment, etc., which will decrease construction costs.
- Flatten down the construction work schedule to allow local people to have a life. Promote local training and adaptive accreditation (hands-on) with oral testing. Increase competition. Local people don't even qualify for jobs where southerners are brought in to work 12-16-hour days so that southerners can get in and out as fast as possible.
- The Government of Canada should work to design more energy efficient (Kyoto Protocol) housing (e.g. larger porches built lower than the rest of the house to capture the cold, like in an igloo, sheds, larger kitchen floor areas, fewer walls, south facing windows, entrance on non-windy side, etc.) consider regional community impacts (e.g. water, waste,

recycling, pollution, development, etc.), develop a code for the Arctic, and ensure that circumpolar experts are consulted on inspections. Develop central information/ombudsman regionally located and administered/staffed by an Inuk.

- Host an Inuit-specific housing conference in the Arctic in June 2005 to raise awareness and capacity to work with government to establish culturally appropriate policies.

### ***Infrastructure and access to social housing***

- There is a lack of consistent policy for social housing.
- There is a requirement to include specifications for weather and wind resistance in materials. The Government of Canada should support research and development and an Inuit building code.
- Use a holistic approach to developing it. Exchange experiences across the North and study other northern countries. Information and knowledge are key.

### ***How will you know progress is being made?***

- When lack of housing is no longer the number one issue.
- When Inuit can say there is hope to get a house, and the waiting lists become shorter or non-existent.
- When Inuit get and implement specific action plans from the Government of Canada, such as the Nunavut 10-year plan and beyond, and have more control over housing issues.



- When social standards and indicators are the same as other Canadians, and Inuit concerns are seen to be important, and houses provide a healthy living place and address the needs.
- When these ideas are adopted from the Roundtable process.

### **Affordability – Access to Home Ownership and Rental Housing**

#### Launch Question

***What are the key issues that affect housing affordability and what systemic adjustments and supports are required to enable access by Inuit people to affordable homes?***

Critical issues include:

- problems in some towns and communities related to the availability of land or lots. Sometimes these relate to land tenure issues and sometimes there are no lots available;
- associated to home ownership affordability questions are costs linked to materials, labour and capital costs, cost and availability of insurance. Insurance options are very expensive or non-existent. Should create government-based insurance for Inuit regions of provinces and territories. Include recognition of insurance/safety risk when developing an Inuit building code. The high risk makes it hard to find providers;
- demand versus need. An artificial rental market can also exist;

- accessibility of the homeownership program, whether there is access to credit and whether the homeownership program is helping to cultivate financing strategies;
- long waiting lists to get into urban housing (rental). Access for single parents and those living with disabilities;
- CMHC standards (new income requirements, government guidelines and policies for affordable housing), insurance, health and safety;
- change CMHC policy to Inuit specific, which reflects true northern cost of living; and
- CMHC renovation and retrofitting grants based on southern costs are much too low for northern costs of materials and labour. Inuit-specific, northern-based financing formulas are needed. Develop measuring tool “construction material basket” (like food basket) to develop an allowance for Inuit specific. Add incentives and rewards for innovative practices in renovations and retrofits.

#### ***Language, education/awareness, employment and discrimination***

- Financial housing counsellors need to teach Inuit about insurance, costs, bank payments and other consequences of owning a home. Transition guidance counselling is needed to inform people moving from social housing to home ownership.
- Keep Inuktitut a requirement; more Inuktitut staff and housing officials are required at CMHC. Translation costs and language issues should be included



in all federal funding. Home Depot-type workshops that reflect Inuit knowledge need to occur in all communities. Include preventative maintenance educational workshops.

- Start a housing entrepreneurship assistance program to allow the owner to participate in his/her own construction of the unit. This will lead to a better product and more trained Inuit able to maintain their own homes. Result will be a reduction in the cost for construction and possibly a real business opportunity for Inuit, maybe even within the home (e.g. hairdressing, a workshop or an office).
- Start an entrepreneurship program.
- Homeownership programs should have staff that will inform, guide and counsel Inuit. An ombudsman or a 1-800 help line for assistance with individual rights and the development of a manual specific for Inuit should be set up. Financial institutions and resource services are presently very rare or non-existent in the Arctic and should be set up in order to help Inuit with co-signing and assisting with other financial requirements. On-line banking education is a requirement and partnerships with such organizations or quasi-financial institutions, such as the North Mart Co-op or other credit unions, should be established.
- Address language barriers.

## **Jurisdiction**

### Launch Question

*What institutional framework and collaborative approaches are needed to address the diversity of jurisdictional issues that impact on the ability of Inuit peoples to exercise control and governance over how their housing needs are met?*

Critical issues include:

- recognition that Inuit housing is a fiduciary responsibility. Government needs to acknowledge its responsibility for Inuit housing. A mandate should be given to the respective governments to provide adequate housing. Clarify who has the mandate, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Territory, the land claim organization? Distinguish between First Nations and Inuit and remove barriers;
- need the same housing support from the federal government as First Nations, taking into account northern costs and remoteness, federal consultation with Inuit in development of programs and policies while referring to current agreements and obligations, and, urban Inuit-specific housing projects and processes;
- a new formula is needed to allow Inuit catch-up in funding rates and create fairness. Prioritize programs within regions and communities since each has its own needs and choice. Distribute information and draft reports directly to communities for input. Create an Inuit-specific department (Inuit Secretariat)



within the federal government to address Inuit-specific issues, such as housing, education, the environment, health and other related areas. The Government of Canada must acknowledge that Inuit are different from First Nations and need their own funding and programs that are consistent and ongoing;

- an Inuit Affairs Department that reports to Cabinet and the Prime Minister's Office and would be charged with gathering statistics, and dealing with health, environment, housing, education, transportation, urban issues and Inuit women, as well as other key issues; and
- the federal government must realize that the current system (INAC) does not work, therefore the federal government must address this issue immediately and realize that a different approach needs to be taken that is more holistic in nature. The set-up of this department must be done through a true partnership with Inuit. The department, for example, could address issues closer to home, such as Canadian sovereignty.

### **Key Messages to the Government of Canada**

- Serious engagement of all. Invest now before it gets even more expensive. Understand northern perspective and recognize differences.
- Build houses that are designed for Inuit that meet the need and are culturally relevant.
- Agreement within the Aboriginal coalition (process is starting). Federal, provincial, territorial and Aboriginal

organizations have to work together to succeed. Be open, innovative and creative in making new solutions.

- Government announcements that are Aboriginal have to include equal access and a fair share of the funding for Inuit, in language that says there will be Inuit-specific initiatives.
- Housing is a priority that impacts on other health factors. Good faith funding is needed immediately for Inuit. This is an opportunity for Inuit to advance their goals and Inuit need to be at the table at any federal, provincial or territorial meetings.

### **iii) MÉTIS BREAKOUT GROUP**

It is important to note that the following pages offer an overview of some of the discussions from the Métis breakout session. These excerpts are not prioritized in any way, nor do the comments purport to represent a summary of the discussions. To fully appreciate the two days of discussions, it is critical to read the full report containing the verbatim transcribed flip charts from the session.

### **Housing Supply**

#### Launch Question

***How can the factors affecting the current supply of housing be addressed in ways that increase availability for Aboriginal peoples in their diverse circumstances?***

Participants identified a number of solutions dealing with housing building standards, suggestions outlining innovative housing





approaches for the urban Aboriginal population and policies that will support Métis control on housing issues.

### ***Critical issues***

- number of units, existing urban native stock, specific Métis allocation, equitable share (to Inuit and First Nations);
- sustainability;
- construction, diversity in the models made;
- homelessness;
- infrastructure, environmental concerns, water quality;
- land to build on;
- financing, expiry of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation agreements; and
- overcrowding.

### **Additional Question**

***What recommended actions do you have to address the critical issues identified?***

***If these recommended actions get interpreted, how will we know progress is being made?***

- analysis/better quality of information for housing;
- evaluation process required for housing quality;
- federal government needs to create urban/rural Aboriginal “status blind”<sup>3</sup> fund/programs for housing;
- CMHC provincial/federal ratios should be 25% to 75%;

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<sup>3</sup> status blind is a term that means an agency/organization will service all Aboriginal people, First Nations, Inuit and Métis

- need rural housing allocations;
- need urban Aboriginal housing-specific allocation;
- expanded urban housing policy, continuum for homelessness;
- urban Aboriginal groups need equal access to homeless funds for programs;
- administrative capacity for persons with disabilities;
- new approaches for housing (e.g. co-op, neighbourhood project; women’s initiatives, Aboriginal housing foundation);
- inner city/core should be a priority; safety, transitional housing for homeless;
- looking at different housing models (e.g. both single family and apartments, special needs, disabled and seniors);
- plan for population increases;
- direct involvement of Métis in policy development;
- direct transfer of funds to Métis organizations to manage and deliver housing programs;
- subsidies must be maintained for existing portfolios where subsidy agreements are ending (sustainability);
- shortened waiting lists;
- longer life of housing units (better housing standards);
- more access to home ownership (e.g. innovative financing);
- home ownership options including rent to own, shorter amortization periods;
- inclusion of insurance in home payments;
- community should determine appropriate home payments that are reasonable; and



- province responsible for supplying quality land serviced with proper infrastructure (e.g. water, sewage, power, drainable, road access, garbage/waste, sub-division for new housing stock); also municipal responsibility as appropriate.

## **Housing Quality**

### **Launch Question**

***What strategic approaches can be pursued to reduce deficiencies and improve the quality of housing available to Aboriginal people?***

*Participants suggested the following approaches that would support more purchasing power for Métis, greater capacity building for tenants and homeowners for ownership pride, ability to involve the community in the construction, and better land and building infrastructure:*

- financial, capital, operating, on par with non-Aboriginal/Métis;
- allocate part of Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) budget for maintenance and improvement before they come off subsidy, increase RRAP budget, create Métis RRAP;
- purchasing power (collectives), deep subsidies for suitable housing;
- Métis and Aboriginal people want input into policies, construction standards, safety standards, etc.;

- use community members to build housing;
- Métis and Aboriginal groups want operating authority;
- tenant relations officers to address client specific issues/social problem;
- Métis and Aboriginal people want assurance that good environment/land practices are followed when housing is built and situated in all areas;
- more training programs (apprenticeship program) to allow Métis people to build units;
- renovation and maintenance, training, education and replacement reserves;
- basic training for renters, such as how to use simple tools; success is measured in user satisfaction; homes are better maintained; renter/community provide longer life cycle of units;
- require infrastructure for sewage disposal;
- require garbage disposal site properly developed;
- require access to municipal waterways;
- use maintenance-free materials (e.g. mould resistant, durable);
- the price of land has an impact on securing good land for Métis housing;
- the cost of servicing the land can be a barrier to maintaining quality;
- housing programs and services must look at the unique circumstances of urban housing perspective;
- restricted to buy/develop houses in modest housing areas that are more likely to have social problems;
- Aboriginal people must be in control of housing criteria;



- inner city areas have a higher level of renting versus ownership, higher levels of unemployment, a greater number of run-down properties and a larger number of people on welfare; and
- municipalities in Western Canada have Aboriginal neighbourhoods that are marginalized and not necessarily safe environments.

### **Housing Affordability**

#### **Launch Question**

***What are the key issues that affect housing affordability and what systemic adjustments and supports are required to enable access by Aboriginal peoples to affordable homes?***

The following questions were also posted in the room to help participants address housing affordability:

*How can we design successful partnership arrangements, and with whom?*

*How can home ownership be made more affordable for Métis people?*

*How do we ensure that affordable rental housing exists for Métis people?*

*What innovative financing mechanisms can be used to improve the affordability of existing housing?*

*How can viable housing markets be created in small and/or remote communities?*

*How do we define affordability as it relates to Métis housing?*

#### ***Critical issues on affordability***

- costs of labour and materials;

- cost of operation, maintenance and utilities;
- geographic distance;
- access to capital;
- home ownership options; and
- health and safety.

#### ***Recommendations***

Participants recommend innovative models for home building and purchasing. More effort is needed in making creative financial options in building capital, home ownership and maintenance for Aboriginal and Métis people a reality. Additional recommended actions included:

- new housing;
- use of Crown land to reduce initial costs; portable tax credit;
- existing housing must have access to affordable maintenance;
- lower-cost housing may be a longer operating expense;
- value of homes and mortgage must reflect market, may need a bigger grant;
- innovative home ownership programs, such as subsidy and rent-to-own;
- government needs to provide sufficient subsidies and must address high cost of utilities;
- in Quebec, the requirement for a labour card could be eliminated;
- encourage private sector to donate materials, etc., by offering tax-break incentives;
- create foundations to help finance individuals, such as single parents with poor credit rating or low income who do not qualify for a traditional bank mortgage;



- innovative ways to finance initial construction costs;
- need authority to determine when a house is no longer economical or viable due to ongoing maintenance;
- use of local materials;
- partnership and bulk buying;
- can't sacrifice quality, must build to standard code;
- investment in quality, maintenance-free materials, innovative designs would reduce future repair and rehabilitation costs;
- Habitat for Humanity approach;
- provide incentives to encourage housing providers to provide home ownership programs;
- passive natural resources could identify potential energy efficiencies;
- return to lease-to-purchase agreements;
- social assistance should reflect actual housing cost, not a portion thereof;
- negotiate lower property tax on subsidized housing;
- government could address eliminating provincial sales tax for housing providers/non-profits;
- provinces should be responsible for servicing lots;
- cut levels of administration;
- use Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement (AHRDA) funds to train trades people to construct homes and generate skills;
- recognize lower income level of persons with disabilities, single women;
- address unique needs for women (e.g. maintenance training);
- existing delivery programs to provide supportive property management services, especially for single parent households, people with disabilities and seniors;
- funding the development of a Métis housing policy now (technical level);
- best buy practices;
- research and expand capacity of groups such as Frontiers Foundation; and
- embrace technology (e.g. new and more efficient furnaces and geo-thermal heating).

### **Jurisdiction, Control and Governance**

#### Launch Question

*What collaborative approaches are needed to address the jurisdictional issues that impact on the ability of Aboriginal peoples to exercise control and governance over how their housing needs are met?*

Participants recommended a transfer of jurisdiction, control and governance from all levels of government to Métis governments.

#### ***Jurisdiction***

- transfer dollars and authority to Métis regions/organizations;
- option 2, transfer dollars and authority to Métis/status blind housing service provider;
- provincial bodies, housing authorities, cut provinces out as middle man;
- provincial allocations to existing delivery organizations including urban native organizations and land-based Métis organizations;



- decisions to allocate made by Métis at provincial housing authority level;
- allocations to be made on an equitable basis by other organizations not covered by national Métis organizations;
- both options based on Métis-specific national housing policy;
- Métis peoples under section 35.1 of the *Constitution Act* 1982 are distinct Aboriginal people;
- initial Métis National Council (MNC) role; other options, add all five organizations;
- housing policy must recognize status blind organizations in urban situations and be equitable;
- option 1 - all five national Aboriginal groups should have full control of all resources;
- option 2 - money should flow directly to status blind service providers;
- option 3 - see envelope approach (in complete transcribed flip charts);
- jurisdiction for housing belongs to the federal level and flowing down to the federal Métis level and then provincial levels;
- to be nation specific, with mechanisms in place to collaborate;
- political bodies to listen to service providers;
- jurisdiction is based on nation-to-nation negotiations based on self-government models;
- jurisdiction should be based on national Métis strategy that recognizes the right to make decisions on delivery, policy and implementation, evaluations;
- government to Métis government housing to service providers. Relationship is necessary;

- jurisdiction should be carried out in an open and transparent process using plain language and seek to provide the greatest good for the greatest number of people; and
- results-based accountability; federal government does not micromanage.

### ***Control***

- option 1, status blind;
- federal direct relationship with organizations, housing service providers, Métis, status blind;
- option 2, federal/provincial/municipal/Métis protocol of understanding, organizations;
- when there are tripartite negotiations, create an agreement that reduces bureaucracy and costs go directly to services;
- structured options can be used for different issues;
- problem with tripartite agreements – government change follow though is not guaranteed;
- specific to province or municipality, control mechanism has to adapt to geographic area, develop Métis specific control;
- develop protocols in consultation with women and people with disabilities;
- jurisdiction framework has to protect and build on what is already there;
- control of the programs belong in Métis organization (cut provinces out);
- starting point, transfer agreement of funds;
- when authority is transferred adequate resources must accompany it;



- national standards;
- control over standards, inspections, evaluation, design of house;
- transparent and open process;
- different ways to decide on budgets (e.g. coalition status blind at community level, “standing apart to work together”);
- each municipality create own infrastructure; and
- political groups involved at the lobbying/advocacy level, high level, political level.

### ***Governance***

- clarity of role of Interlocutor and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation on housing;
- need to have one point of contact (one department) federally (housing for all issues);
- request for a Métis secretariat within federal government;
- need to use current representative and elected bodies for governance;
- representative Métis bodies;
- must be accountable to the people;
- do not want to see a pan-Aboriginal approach such as Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) in urban areas;
- Métis specific not pan-Aboriginal;
- status blind does not equate with pan-Aboriginal;
- status blind respects the different culture;
- ensure both a women’s and disabled person’s voice is built into the governance bodies;

- protocol with the five national Aboriginal organizations (ensure inclusion of women and disability and senior issues), build time frames into protocol;
- Métis-specific women’s organizations can play a role in delivery of specific programs addressing women’s housing/shelter issues (capacity issues will need to be addressed) in all areas (e.g. disabled);
- governance of the Aboriginal housing strategy should follow on protocol and agreements reached by federal/provincial/territorial/Aboriginal;
- transparent and open process for clarity of understanding;
- adequate and equitable funding needed to enable full participation in reaching agreement;
- renew and establish agreements with existing housing service providers;
- multi-year housing policy and strategy;
- all parties work toward efficiency and effectiveness to meet the crises in Aboriginal housing;
- government must proceed with action and not be stalled by differing views of stakeholder groups or use it as an excuse for inaction; and
- governance should be based on a results-based management approach.

### **Making Progress**

#### Launch Question

*How will we know we have achieved success?*



Participants recommended accountability in government reporting on improvements. Not clear through statistical information and movement to devolve housing to the Métis.

- reduced waiting lists;
- federal government to report annually on progress on needs data;
- Statistics Canada indicators will show improvement in next census;
- also measure progress on improvement for persons with disabilities and women;
- federal government to report on status of recommendations and actions from these sessions (annually);
- measurable increase in the number of new social housing (Métis) units;
- federal government to do research on finance options from other sources (e.g. shelter allowance);
- budget to be targeted specifically to off-reserve Aboriginals, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation should be directly involved rather than going through third party such as provinces, municipalities;
- in Québec, municipalities must participate (15%) if do not want/have no housing development;
- municipal governments must provide tax breaks, incentives to build (this must be federal mandate and their responsibility to enforce);
- Urban Aboriginal Homelessness/Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAH/UAS) – align funding and control to Aboriginal (Métis) community;
- there must be (Métis) equitable share of any new resources allocated to housing;
- sell old stock (single dwellings) to create new resources for purchase of housing options such as apartments/suites that house more for less;
- land trusts can reduce building costs; and
- funding budgets must represent true regional costs.



## Final Annotated Agenda

***FOLLOW-UP TO THE CANADA-ABORIGINAL PEOPLES ROUNDTABLE***  
**HOUSING SECTORAL SESSION**  
**NOVEMBER 24-25, 2004**  
**OTTAWA, ONTARIO**  
**CHÂTEAU LAURIER**

### Session Goals

To provide an opportunity for participants to contribute to the development of recommended actions to improve housing for First Nation, Inuit and Métis in the key policy areas of:

- Jurisdiction, Control and Governance
- Housing Supply
- Housing Quality
- Affordability (Access to Home Ownership and Rental Housing)

To reach agreement on immediate steps and investments, longer term objectives, and related actions and measures.

### Day One – Wednesday, November 24, 2004

<b>7:30 am</b>	<b>Breakfast and Registration</b>	<b>Adam Room</b>
<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Opening Invocation</b> <i>Elders</i>	<b>Canadian Room</b>
<b>8:45 am</b>	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> <i>The Honourable Joseph Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing</i>	
<b>9:15 am</b>	<b>Review of the Background Papers</b> <i>Facilitation Team</i>	
<b>9:35 am</b>	<b>Introduction to the Forum Agenda</b> Description of Breakout Group Process <i>Harold Tarbell, Lead Facilitator</i>	





**9:45 am Health Break in Breakout Rooms** First Nations—Canadian Room  
Inuit—Tutor Room  
Métis—Macdonald Room

**10:00 am Breakout Groups**

**Policy Area 1:**  
**Issues of Jurisdiction, Control and Governance**

- Shared Definition of Success
- Recommended Actions
- Cross Cutting Themes (i.e. housing issues for urban Aboriginal peoples and Aboriginal women, and housing issues in rural and remote areas)

**Launch Question:**

**What institutional framework and collaborative approaches would address the diversity of jurisdictional issues that impact on the ability of Aboriginal peoples to exercise control and governance over how their housing needs are met?**

**12:30 pm Lunch** Adam Room

**1:30 pm Breakout Groups** First Nations—Canadian Room  
Inuit—Tutor Room  
Métis—Macdonald Room

Policy Area 2: Housing Supply

- Shared Definition of Success
- Recommended Actions
- Cross Cutting Themes (i.e. housing issues for urban Aboriginal peoples and Aboriginal women, and housing issues in rural and remote areas)

**Launch Question:**

**How can the factors affecting the current supply of housing be addressed in ways that increase the availability for Aboriginal peoples in their diverse circumstances?**



<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Health Break in Breakout Rooms</b>	
<b>4:15 pm</b>	<b>Facilitator's Summary Reports From Breakout Sessions 1 and 2</b>	
<b>4:45 pm- 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Facilitator Summary of Day One</b> <i>Facilitation Team</i>	
<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Delegates Reception</b> <i>Hosted by the Honourable Joseph Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing</i>	<b>Drawing Room</b>

#### **Day Two – Thursday, November 25, 2004**

<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Drawing Room</b>
<b>8:45 am</b>	<b>Opening Invocation</b> <i>Elders</i>	<b>Canadian Room</b>
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Wrap-up of Day 1/ Introduction to Day 2</b>  Facilitation Team	
<b>9:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Breakout Groups</b>	<b>First Nations - Canadian Room Inuit Breakout - Tutor Room Métis - Québec Room</b>

#### ***Policy Area 3: Housing Quality***

- Shared Definition of Success
- Recommended Actions
- Cross Cutting Themes (i.e. housing issues for urban Aboriginal peoples and Aboriginal women, and housing issues in rural and remote areas)

#### **Launch Question:**

**What strategic approaches can be pursued to reduce deficiencies and improve the quality of housing available to Aboriginal peoples?**



<b>11:45 am</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Drawing Room</b>
<b>12:45 am</b>	<b>Breakout Groups</b>	<b>First Nations—Canadian Room Inuit Breakout—Tutor Room Métis—Québec Room</b>

**Policy Area 4: Affordability - Access to Home Ownership and Rental Housing**

- Shared Definition of Success
- Recommended Actions
- Cross Cutting Themes (i.e. housing issues for urban Aboriginal peoples and Aboriginal women, and housing issues in rural and remote areas)

**Launch Question:**

**What are the key issues that affect housing affordability and what systemic adjustments and supports are required to enable access by Aboriginal peoples to home ownership and affordable housing?**

<b>3:15 pm</b>	<b>Health Break in Breakout Rooms</b>
<b>3:30 pm</b>	<b>Facilitator's Summary Reports From Breakout Sessions 3 and 4</b>
<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Facilitator's Overall Summary</b> <i>Facilitation Team</i>
<b>4:30 pm</b>	<b>Closing Ceremony and Adjournment</b> <i>Elders</i>



**Participants List**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Company/Organization</b>
<b>Elders</b>			
<b>Mr. Ted</b>	<b>Chartrand</b>	<b>Elder</b>	
<b>Mr. Elmer</b>	<b>Courchene</b>	<b>Elder</b>	
<b>Mr. Simon</b>	<b>Nattaq</b>	<b>Elder</b>	
<b>First Nations Breakout Group</b>			
Mr. Roger	Augustine	Technician	Chiefs of Ontario
Ms. Angie	Barnes	Grand Chief	Assembly of First Nations
Mr. Jean	Beaucage	Grand Chief	Union of Ontario Indians
Mr. Pierre	Beauchamp	CEO	Canadian Real Estate Association
Mr. Dan	Brant	CEO	National Aboriginal Capital Corp.
Mr. James	Brennan		Canadian Real Estate Association
Ms. Marilyn	Buffalo	Senior Policy Analyst	Samson Cree Nation
Mr. Greg	Carter	Director of Housing	Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
Mr. Gerry	Cheezie	General Manager	Yellowknives Dene First Nation - Housing Division
Mr. Wayne	Clark	Vice President	United Native Nations Society
Ms. Lorraine	Cook	Executive Director	Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start
Mr. Jim	Crisp	Manager, Program Analysis	BC Housing Management Commission
Mr. George	Devine	Executive Director	National Aboriginal Housing Association
Mr. Francis	Flett	Regional Chief of Manitoba	Assembly of First Nations
Mr. Charles	Fox	Ontario Regional Chief	Chiefs of Ontario
Mr. Dan	Gaspe	Consultant	Gaspe-Tarbell Associates
Mr. Gary	Gould	General Manager	Skigin-ELNOG Housing Corporation
Mr. Lance	Haymond	Chief	Eagle Village First Nation
Ms. Betty Ann	Lavallee	Chief	New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council
Ms. Sherry	Lewis	Executive Director	Native Women's Association of Canada
Ms. Janice	Lewis	Executive Director	Urban Native Homes Incorporated
Mr. Guy	Lonechild	Vice Chief	Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
Mr. Keith	Maracle	Co-Chair	First Nations National Building Officers Association
Mr. Chris	Maracle	Director of Housing	Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte
Ms. Martha	Montour		Kahnawake Mohawk Territory
Mr. Jim	Munroe	Technical Services Manager	Carrier Chilcotin Tribal Council
Ms. Bobbi	Okeymaw	Executive Director	Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations



Mr.	Rupen	Pandya	Manager, Housing Policy and Program Services	Saskatchewan Community Resources and Employment
Mr.	Vaughn	Paul	C.E.O	First Nations (AB) Technical Services
Mr.	Jon	Paul	Executive Director	Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat Inc.
Mr.	Sidney	Peters	Housing Mentor/Advisor	SCP Advisory Services
Mr.	James	Robar	Manager, Housing Technology	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Mrs.	Linda	Ross	CEO	Aboriginal Housing Management Association
Mr.	Don	Routledge	Director, Corporate Relations	Yukon Housing Corporation, Government of Yukon
Ms.	Gina Gasongi	Simon		National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence
Ms.	Deborah	Taylor	Director, Programs	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Mr.	Mike	Touchie	President	BC Aboriginal Network on Disability
Ms.	Ruth	Williams	Chief Executive Officer	All Nations Trust Company
Ms.	Carla	Woodward	Senior Manager, Aboriginal Banking	RBC Royal Bank
<b>Métis Breakout Group</b>				
Mr.	Alden	Armstrong	President	Métis Settlements General Council
Ms.	Angie	Barrados	Senior Policy Analyst	National Secretariat on Homelessness
M.	Gilles	Bérubé	Président-directeur général	Corporation Waskahegen
Mr.	David	Boisvert	Expert	Manitoba Métis Federation
Mr.	Oliver	Boulette	Executive Director	Manitoba Métis Federation
Mr.	Derek	Bouvier	Métis National Youth Advisory Council	Métis Nation
Mr.	Ephram	Bouvier	Regional President and Minister of Housing	Métis Nation of Alberta
Mrs.	Sandra	Brown	Housing Manager	Lloydminster Métis Housing Group
Ms.	Lucille	Bruce	Executive Director	Native Women's Transition Centre
Mr.	John	Burrett	Manager, Social Policy	Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Mr.	Henry	Cummings	Regional Director	Métis Nation of Saskatchewan
Mr.	Peter	Dinsdale	Executive Director	National Association of Friendship Centres
Mr.	Carl	Dubé	Economic & Housing Development Officer	Congress of Aboriginal Peoples
Mr.	Ray	Hamilton	President	Métis Urban Housing Assoc. of Sask
Mr.	Frazer	MacDonald	Regional Director	Métis Provincial Council of BC
Mr.	Don	McBain	General Manager	Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services
Mr.	Dave	McCulloch	Technician	Manitoba Métis Federation
Mr.	Michael	McGuire	Chief	Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association
Mrs.	Jean	Mclsaac-Wiltala		Métis Nation of Ontario Housing Branch



M.	Luc	Ménard		Congrès des Peuples Autochtones
Ms.	Carrie	Neilson	Aboriginal Issue Strategist	City of Calgary
Mr.	Roy	Nichol	Housing/Development Consultant	Manitoba Métis Federation
Mr.	Marcel	Pelletier	Owner	M&L General Contracting Limited
Mr.	Lloyd	Pelletier	Director	Manitoba Métis Federation
Dr.	Evelyn	Peters		Department of Geography
Mr.	Kelly	Pruden	General Manager	Central Urban Métis Federation Inc.
Mr.	Donald	Roulette	Executive Advisor on Strategic Development	Manitoba Métis Federation
Mr.	Ken	Ruest	Senior Researcher	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Mr.	Dennis	Stark	Vice President	Frontiers Foundation
Mr.	Marcel	Swain		Lu'ma Native Housing Society
Mr.	Ed	Tanner	Executive Director	Manitoba Urban Native Housing Association
Mr.	Gordon	Watson	Executive Director	Métis Urban Housing
Mr.	Larry	Wucherer	President	Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg
<b>Inuit Breakout Group</b>				
Mr.	Johnny	Adams	Chairman	Kativik Regional Government
Mr.	Joanasie	Akumalik	Director, Gov't & Public Relations	Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Mrs.	Pat	Angnakak	Director	Nunavut Tunngavik Inc
Ms.	Judy	Anilniliak	Assistant Director, Social and Cultural Development	Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Mrs.	Jeannie	Arreak-Kullualik	Policy Analyst Housing	Nunavut Tunngavik Inc
Mr.	Franco	Buscemi	Youth Intervenor	Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK)
Mr.	John	Corkett	Secretary/Manager	Clyde River Housing Association
Mr.	David	Crenna	Director, Urban Issues	Canadian Home Builders' Association
Ms.	Margaret	Cumming	Assistant Regional Director	Health Canada
Ms.	Marianne	Demmer	Advisor	Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Mr.	Don	Dicker	Assistant to the President	Labrador Inuit Association
Ms.	Jennifer	Dickson	Executive Director	Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association
Mr.	Kowesa	Etitiq		Inuit Tapairit Kanatami
Ms.	Dolores	Flowers	PHN	Labrador Inuit Health Commission
Mr.	Watson	Fournier	Director General	Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau
Mrs.	Margaret	Fox	Chair	Nain Local Housing Committee and Board of Directors of Torngat Regional Housing Association
Ms.	Susan	Gardener	Chair	Iqaluit Housing Authority
Ms.	Ovilu	Goo-Doyle	Board of Directors	National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence



Mr.	Larry	Gordon		Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
Mr.	Morgan	Hare	Executive Director	Tungasuvvingat Inuit
Ms.	Crystal	Jones	Homelessness Coordinator	City of Iqaluit
Mr.	John	Kaiyogana	Chairman	Cambridge Bay Housing Association
Mr.	Paul	Kaludjak	President	Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.
Ms.	Cathleen	Knotsch	Climate Change Coordinator	Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK)
Mr.	Mike	Komendat	Executive Director	Inuit Non Profit Housing Corporation
Mr.	Andy	Moorhouse	Treasurer	Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau
Mr.	Grant	Morrison	Research and Information Transfer Advisor	CMHC - Yellowknife
Ms.	Patsy	Owlijoot	Manager	Nunavut Housing Corporation
Mr.	Bill	Semple	Senior Researcher	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp.
Ms.	Susan	Spring	Manager	Iqaluit Housing Authority
Ms.	Joanne	Taptuna	Manager	Kugluktuk Housing Association
Ms.	Joy	Thompson	District Director	Nunavut Housing Corporation

#### Officials List

First Name	Last Name	Title	Company/Organization
<b>Officials List</b>			
Mr.	Craig	Atkinson	Senior Analyst Privy Council Office
Mr.	Nicholas	But	Manager, Programs Administration Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Mr.	Emile	Cabot	Regional Housing Director Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation
Mme	Diane	Cofsky	Conseillère spéciale Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Ms.	Lucie	Cossette	Researcher and Policy Advisor National Council of Welfare
Ms.	Cynthia	Dunnigan	Manager, Cross Ministry and Intergovernmental Issues Alberta Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development
Mrs.	Lorraine	Foreman	Director of Operations Congress of Aboriginal Peoples
Mr.	Robert	Gairns	Senior Advisor - Strategic Initiatives Congress of Aboriginal Peoples
Ms.	Lorie	Gopher	Administrative & Communications Assistant Assembly of First Nations
Mr.	Jules	Hébert	Director, Housing and Infrastructure Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Mr.	Stephen	Hendrie	Director of Communications Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
Mr.	Leigh	Howell	Director, Socio-Economic Research Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Mr.	Dean	Janvier	Senior Policy Analyst Assembly of First Nations
Mr.	Richard	Jock	CEO Assembly of First Nations
Mr.	Joe	Johnson	Manager of Housing Assembly of First Nations



Mr.	Larry	Jones	District Manager	Northwest Territories Housing Corporation
Mr.	Jacquelin	Juneau		Corporation Waskahegen
Ms.	Mary Lou	Kenney	Senior Policy Analyst	Office of the Federal Interlocutor
Mr.	Fred	Koe	President	NWT Housing Corporation
Mrs.	Bayla	Kolk	Associate Assistant Deputy Minister	Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
Ms.	Tooneejoulee	Kootoo		Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
Ms.	Esther	Kwavnick	Director of Environmental Health	Health Canada
Mr.	Pierre	Lefebvre	Executive Director	Métis Nation of Ontario
Mr.	Stephen	Lloyd	Director, Policy Partnerships	Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
Mr.	Bill	MacKenzie	Director Policy & Federal/Provincial Relations	New Brunswick Department of Family and Community Services
Mrs.	Patricia	McDowell	Executive Director	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Mr.	Alastair	McPhee		Congress of Aboriginal Peoples
Mr.	Jeff	Polakoff	Executive Director	Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation
Mr.	Darren	Ramsey	Policy Analyst	Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat, Manitoba
Mr.	Gilles	Rochon	Director General, Community Development	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Mr.	Andy	Siggnier	Sr. Advisor on Aboriginal Statistics	Statistics Canada
Mr.	Bill	Smith	Vice-President, Assisted Housing Sector	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Mr.	Matthew	Smolak	Senior Policy Coordinator	Alberta Seniors, Government of Alberta
Ms.	Carly	Steinman	Senior Policy Advisor	Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Mr.	Doug	Stewart	Vice President, Policy and Planning	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Mr.	Harley	Trudeau	Senior Government Representative	Yukon Government
Ms.	Shani	Watts	Sessions Coordinator	Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami
Mrs.	Erin	Wolski	Senior Housing Advisor	Assembly of First Nations
Ms.	Pauline	Wong	Senior Policy Analyst	Treasury Board Secretariat
Mr.	Milt	Wright	Director, Negotiations and Corporate Mandates	Aboriginal Directorate, British Columbia





Background Information and Flip Chart Notes are available on the Internet at:  
[www.aboriginalroundtable.ca](http://www.aboriginalroundtable.ca)

The following is a list of documents available through the website:

- Flip Chart Notes
  - First Nations Breakout Room
  - Inuit Breakout Room
  - Métis Breakout Room
- Government of Canada Background Paper
- Assembly of First Nations Background Paper
- Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami Background Paper
- Métis National Council Background Paper
- Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Background Paper
- Native Women's Association of Canada Background Paper
- Provincial/Territorial Background Papers
- Statistics Canada Overview