



Aboriginal Housing Management Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2018

FEDERAL BUDGET LEAVES MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS

West Vancouver – In a statement put out earlier today by the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA), Margaret Pfoh, Chief Executive Officer, said that the organization has serious concerns over what they feel is a lack of clarity in last week's federal budget.

Though AHMA recognizes that certain steps are being taken to fulfill commitments made by the Trudeau government – such as beginning to implement some of the 94 calls to action as outlined in the Truth & Reconciliation Commission – the lack of specifics regarding housing has the organization feeling hugely unsettled. “We were hoping that the 2018 budget would give more details to what was announced in the NHS regarding Indigenous Housing” says Pfoh. “Obviously we are pleased to see key jurisdictions throughout the country get much needed help, and we are especially pleased that the budget is focused on empowering the Aboriginal population not only through housing, but also healthcare, childcare, education and training” says Pfoh.

The challenge, however, from our organizations point of view is that the language in the federal budget implies that both funding and consultation will be directed towards on-reserve stakeholders, even though a large percentage of Aboriginals in British Columbia live in urban, rural and northern regions of the province.

As a result of these ambiguities, Pfoh makes it clear that “as the organization mandated – in partnership with BC Housing – to oversee housing for members of our community who do not live on-reserve. We can't help but wonder if perhaps this means the responsibility for caring for Aboriginals in the urban, rural and northern regions will fall to the provincial government.”

In her concluding remarks, Pfoh notes that “the provincial government recognizes that partnership is crucial for properly addressing off-reserve housing. Aboriginal People's must be at the table every step of the way, and as the only housing authority of its kind in Canada – and only the second in the world – we stand ready to make ourselves available to the federal government as we both determine how to best serve our Peoples who do not live on-reserve but are living in urban, rural and northern regions of the province.”





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¹ <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html>

² <http://www.cwp-csp.ca/poverty/a-human-rights-violation/the-right-to-housing/>