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Liberals Promise $638 Million For Urban Indigenous Housing

AHMA is pleased to see the Federal Government is finally recognizing the merit of urban and rural Indigenous Housing Providers in the National Housing Strategy via a dedicated separate funding stream. Since the National Housing Strategy was announced in November 2017, which excluded urban and rural housing providers, AHMA and other Indigenous organizations have been advocating at all government levels to recognize Urban and Rural Indigenous Housing as a key component within the distinction-based approach.

The funding announced by Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Jean-Yves Duclos does not reflect the disparity of the housing crisis that urban Indigenous peoples face. $638 Million represents only 3% of the $21 Billion dedicated for Canada Community Housing Initiative and the National Housing Co-Investment Fund. “3% of funding is not sufficient because over 40% of Indigenous People in BC are currently at risk of homelessness” said Margaret Pfoh CEO of AHMA

The programs in the announcement are set to be delivered by CMHC and Provincial/Territorial governments. AHMA is optimistic that our members, the Indigenous Housing Providers who have been on the frontlines of Indigenous Housing for the past 35 years will be consulted by the Federal Government. AHMA has successfully managed over $175 million dollars of public funding and delivers a wide range of Indigenous Housing Programs across the province. AHMA encourages the Federal Government to utilize AHMAs expertise and leadership in Indigenous Housing. In order to alleviate Indigenous housing challenges, Indigenous Housing leaders must be consulted, or the solutions will not be adequate.

AHMA has constantly played a large role in the Housing sector in BC, as it is the first not for profit Indigenous Housing Association in Canada. AHMA continues to shape the Indigenous Housing landscape. In 2018 in partnership with the Provincial Government, AHMA co-created and administered the Building BC: Indigenous Fund. British Columbia became the first province in Canada to invest provincial funds into on and off-reserve housing. The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Selina Robinson and CEO of AHMA, Margaret Pfoh made the announcement for the first phase of funding in November 2018.

AHMA acknowledges that the National Housing strategy is a substantial foundation to ending the housing crisis, however funding amounts have to be proportional to the statistics; Urban and rural
Indigenous representation in homelessness and in core housing needs continue to increase at an alarming rate. AHMA is ready for the government to fully utilize the leadership our members have been providing the province for the past 35 years. Our history demonstrates our expertise. AHMA is poised to take a leading role alongside the government through consultation and administration of the newly announced $638 million funding.

- 30 -

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