

# National Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Coalition Declaration

## Preamble

The National Housing Council's Urban, Rural, and Northern (URN) Housing working group report dated March 11, 2022 provided recommendations on governance, immediate, substantial and sustainable investment in URN Indigenous housing, and homelessness. The NHC is in support of the National URN Body. The URN Report was accepted by the Minister and the 2022 federal budget provided some initial resources. As recommended by the NHC Report, the body will oversee the delivery of URN Indigenous Housing funding on behalf of the Government of Canada.

Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous organizations, including the Canada Housing and Renewal Association (CHRA) Indigenous Caucus and others, have committed decades of working with and for Indigenous peoples in the area of housing and wrap-around services and met on November 25, 2022 to discuss the next steps on the URN body and strategy.

Upon discussion and reflection of work completed to date, the undersigned have agreed to next steps with respect to moving the important work forward on the Indigenous URN strategy.

## Areas of Mutual Agreement

As such, we, the founding undersigned, have agreed to participate in a For Indigenous By Indigenous Housing Coalition to uphold and advance Housing as a human right for all Indigenous peoples living in urban, rural and northern communities from coast-to-coast-to-coast.

Indigenous peoples, as articulated in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP), have the right, without discrimination, to improve their economic and social conditions, including housing (UNDRIP Article 21); the right to housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them, and administer such programmes through their own institutions (UNDRIP Article 23), and; to maintain and strengthen their distinct social and cultural institutions (UNDRIP Article 5).

The signatories have agreed to work together through this Coalition, in addition to our own ongoing mandates, to advance housing for urban, rural, and northern Indigenous peoples, and to work together to fulfill our responsibilities and to make decisions that ensure the well-being of Indigenous peoples and our lands. The Coalition remains open to welcome other Indigenous member organizations that support the purpose of the Declaration.

## Principles

In advancing this work, we agree to abide by the following principles:

- Respect for each other and upholding self-determination and Indigenous sovereignty. The signatories are autonomous Indigenous organizations that form a coalition to achieve the housing purposes of the coalition;
- Through the development of culturally-appropriate housing and services, we support the retention and revitalization of our diverse cultures through our respective cultures and traditions, ways of knowing and being, and respect for the land;
- To be respectful of each other and of all life; and
- To ensure that housing is provided to all URN Indigenous peoples on an equitable and as needed basis, in an Indigenous holistic manner.

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## Action Items

As a part of this declaration, the signatories agree to the following action items:

- Incorporate a national URN Indigenous housing entity to achieve collective goals, manage and control allocated funds that will be used towards providing housing and housing supports for Indigenous peoples;
- Collaborate with one another through the national organizational structure to provide Housing for urban, rural, and northern Indigenous peoples;
- Work together to compile research, develop communications strategies with respect to advancing the urban, rural, and northern housing strategy;
- Jointly identify, develop and advocate priority initiatives that the signatories mutually agree upon;
- Acknowledge the need for partnerships with governments, municipalities and Indigenous governments and other parties to benefit the provision of Housing for urban, rural, and northern Indigenous peoples; and
- Make decisions jointly with partner organizations where collectively agreed upon.

## Founding Signatories on November 25, 2022

National Association of Friendship Centres



Congress of Aboriginal Peoples



Aboriginal Housing Management Association



Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services



Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres



Namerind Housing Corporation



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Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre



Cariboo Friendship Centre Society



Skigin-Elnoog Housing Corporation



Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Friendship Centre



Elbert Chartrand Friendship Centre



Keepers of the Circle / National Indigenous  
Feminist Housing Working Group



M'akola Housing Society



Gabriel Housing Corporation



Lu'ma Native Housing Society



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**Ontario  
Aboriginal**  
Housing Services



**Aboriginal Housing  
Management Association**



CONGRESS OF  
**ABORIGINAL PEOPLES**

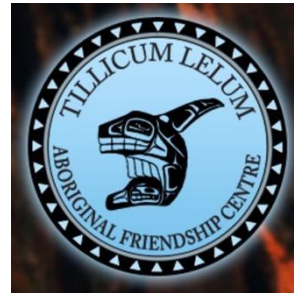


REGROUPEMENT  
DES CENTRES D'AMITIÉ  
AUTOCHTONES DU QUÉBEC



Keepers  
of the Circle 

**NIFHWG**



**National Association  
of Friendship Centres**

