



Aboriginal Housing Management Association
Celebrating 25 Years

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AHMA emphasizes Indigenous Strategy in response to Eby's housing platform

Putting affordable housing at the top of the agenda is an inescapable necessity to alleviate the suffering caused by housing insecurity and homelessness. AHMA's Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy for BC plays a major role in responding equitably to the housing crisis, which disproportionately impacts Indigenous Peoples.

Unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, Vancouver BC – The Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) has developed an expert-driven, research-based Indigenous Housing Strategy for BC and David Eby's recognition that the housing crisis will not be solved without adequate Indigenous representation is a step in the right direction.

"It is widely known that the playing field is not even. Indigenous people have a different socio-economic reality, which requires a more holistic and committed response. AHMA is supportive of the equity-based approach Eby is proposing, keeping in mind that Indigenous rights, Indigenous leadership, and the inclusion of AHMA's strategy, which offers a proven For Indigenous, By Indigenous approach, is critical to success," says AHMA CEO, Margaret Pfoh.

Eby's plan proposes an increase to the Indigenous Housing Fund (IHF) and AHMA agrees that it needs to increase by at least double. A commitment to work with First Nations and Indigenous-led housing partners to fund, build, and support housing for Indigenous people both on and off reserve is also welcomed by AHMA.

In a bid to build 1750 units of Indigenous housing in BC, which is the minimum required, the Province will need to provide at least \$500 million in basic capital funding. These funds will help protect and shelter families by jumpstarting rental housing acquisition so that non-profits can purchase affordable rental buildings listed for sale, to protect the renters living there and prevent displacement.

Declaring a national housing crisis is inconsequential if there aren't tangible goals with metrics to address the crisis. Any call-to-action needs backing in policy and clear, sustained investment. "Hopefully, that's what we can look forward to here," says Pfoh. "While we cannot change history, we can learn from it, and we can shape our common future."

Housing is foundational to health and wellbeing, it is a basic human right, and it is necessary for reconciliation. AHMA's focus on culturally safe wraparound supports is the key to equity and recovery from oppression. "We have tried and true solutions to the housing, homelessness, and poverty struggles our people are facing," adds Pfoh. "Now we need the funding for implementation."

Over 95% of Indigenous housing in BC is provided by AHMA members. Among the many programs and services that AHMA members administer, they also participate in homelessness prevention programs, youth services, Provincial housing and homelessness initiatives, emergency shelters, and outreach programs for families. AHMA is incredibly well connected with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, non-profit housing organizations, and steering committees dedicated to safe, trauma-informed, and sustainable affordable housing.

"Instead of homes being places for families to live, heal, feed their children, feel safe, rest, and grow, they are used by the wealthy for investment purposes to build more wealth for themselves," says Pfoh. "Eby's plan attempts to curb financialization, which would be a good thing for everyone outside the top 3%."

Recent research shows:

- **For every \$1 invested in Indigenous housing, \$7 returns to society** in savings and benefits.
- **39%** of British Columbians rate housing, homelessness, and poverty as their number one concern. That is more than double the closest second place issue, healthcare, at **18%**.
- **68%** support including affordable housing targets to meet the unique needs of Indigenous people in housing needs reports.

Sources:

<https://bcnpha.ca/housing-homelessness-and-poverty-emerge-as-top-issues-for-voters-heading-into-b-c-civic-elections-this-fall/>

[AHMA's Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy for BC](#)

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