



Aboriginal Housing Management Association

April 9, 2020

For Immediate Release

Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19): Aboriginal Housing Management Association Response

Squamish Nation Territory/West Vancouver – It has been 22 days since the province of British Columbia declared a state of Emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The damage has been significant and far reaching. However, in the face of these extraordinary challenges, AHMA has witnessed resilience in adversity.

AHMA raises our hands and expresses our sincere gratitude to the entire Indigenous Housing Community. The list of each individual is too long to inventory but includes: Housing & service providers, cleaning staff, security personnel, maintenance workers, food service workers, social workers and of course each and every health care worker on the front lines of this pandemic. You are the unsung heroes of our current COVID-19 response. It is through your courageous, committed efforts that allow our Indigenous communities to move forward through these unprecedented times.

AHMA continues working diligently alongside our partners and sector leaders to take all the necessary steps to protect the safety and health of our members and the Indigenous communities they serve. At BC Housing, Shayne Ramsay and the entire organization have been compassionate and responsive to AHMA, granting extra funding to support our members through this challenging time. BC Non-Profit Housing Association led by Jill Atkey and her exceptional staff have consistently provided access to the most accurate information and educational opportunities to not only AHMA's membership but to the entire non-profit housing community. Together we have hosted two free webinars to provide up-to-date housing and health information as well as provided opportunities for housing and service providers to ask questions in real-time during this unfolding crisis.

The Province of BC, Premier John Horgan and Minister Selina Robison continue to take exceptional measures to support the housing sector. Finally, our Federal Government and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau have continued to provide the nation with economic measures to ensure that Canadians will get through this difficult time with as minimum damage as possible. "AHMA is extremely fortunate to be enveloped with resilient leadership not only from within our organization but throughout our partners and stakeholders. Together we have been working relentlessly to stabilize our sectors and support our Indigenous communities. Though there is no roadmap we continue to witness our sectors unite. We see a focus being placed on how we can act unitedly, transparently, and coherently to ensure we all get through this together." said Margaret Pfoh, CEO of the Aboriginal Housing Management Association.



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Through these meaningful partnerships AHMA has been able to provide immediate, significant and decisive action to help each of our members facing hardship and we recognize the importance in working together to reduce the spread of COVID-19. AHMA has implemented a COVID-19 internal policy, ceased all in-person services and staff began to telework full time effective, Monday, March 16, 2020 until further notice. AHMA will continue to reassess our internal policies regarding COVID-19 to align with that of the of the [BC Ministry of Health](#) and our partners at [BC Housing](#) and [BCNPHA](#).

Steps that have been taken by AHMA to mitigate and prepare for all potential impacts

- [AHMA COVID – 19 Resource Page](#)
- [Emergency Funds COVID-19 Response](#)
- Tracking confirmed cases/AHMA member needs and requests
- Business Continuity Plan
- Daily updates on website/social media including information bulletins, posters, factsheets, resources, templates + updates/links from BCH and BCNPHA
- Eviction and Rent Adjustment Notification
- Rent Adjustment Templates
- 3 Webinars in partnership with BCNPHA
- 1) [March 25 Part I](#) (Recorded webinars require BCNPHA membership).
- 2) [March 30 HR Support](#)
- 3) [April 2 Part II](#)
- BCNPHA Survey sent to all members to advocate effectively for support and resources
- COVID-19 Newsletter
- [Need Request Form](#) for our members on AHMA's website

For information on AHMA's response to COVID-19, refer to [AHMA's website](#) which is updated regularly.

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For further information, or to schedule an interview, please contact:

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About the Aboriginal Housing Management Association AHMA is an umbrella organization composed of 41 Members that are each Indigenous Housing providers. Our members represent over 5000 Indigenous families living in urban, rural and northern regions of British Columbia. We are direct partners with the provincial government and a leading voice that supports, advocates and responds to the needs of our Indigenous Housing Providers and the Indigenous communities they serve. AHMA is the first Indigenous Housing Authority in Canada and only second in the world and we were created for Indigenous communities by Indigenous communities.