



Aboriginal Housing Management Association  
*Celebrating 25 Years*

## NEWS RELEASE

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Coast Salish Traditional Territory  
Greater Victoria, BC

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### **Community leaders stand together to spark understanding, support, and action in the prioritization of Indigenous Housing**

Traditional Territory of Coast Salish Communities – Community leaders stood today demonstrating support for safe, affordable Indigenous housing. The Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) invited elected officials, municipalities, Indigenous communities, affordable housing providers, and community stakeholders to join in the gathering.

“There is no reconciliation without inclusion and belonging. Indigenous housing offers intention, it honours Indigenous communities, cultures, and values, and these differ between communities,” said Margaret Pfoh, AHMA CEO. “Today we stand collectively to demonstrate the role Indigenous housing plays in strengthening our communities, supporting individuals and families, and creating a sense of belonging and wellbeing.”

AHMA’s long term vision is for every Indigenous community to access and reclaim their inherent rights to housing. This includes supporting members who live away from their home communities. This event created a special opportunity to community leaders to collectively demonstrate the importance of Indigenous community led housing and to connect over common goals.

“Housing is something that everyone has a right to no matter where they live. We need to support Indigenous people living in their home communities and those who choose to live in urban areas. Leaving your community doesn’t take away your right to housing,” said Chief Russ Chipps, Sc’ianew First Nation. “Handing someone the keys, doesn’t create community, being supported, welcomed, and valued does, and that is what we are looking for today.”

The leaders gathered at a M’akola Housing Society’s newest housing project in Langford on Station Avenue.

“We are honoured to host the gathering at our building, and this shows the families and Elders who live in our housing that they are supported,” said Kevin Albers, M’akola Housing Society CEO. “There is a housing crisis across this province and country. We need to meet people where they are at and respect people for who they are. There are no one-size fits all solution to the housing crisis, and honouring the need for Indigenous housing demonstrates that.”



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**Quick Facts**

- In early 2022, AHMA released British Columbia's first [Provincial Urban Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy](#). The historic strategy is an integral step forward in claiming and protecting the social, economic, and Indigenous housing rights of all urban, rural, and northern Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia.
- The Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) was established in 1996 with a mission to "lead and advance housing rights for ALL Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia".
- AHMA is comprised of 55 Indigenous housing and service providers located all across BC. These members manage more the 95% of all Indigenous housing units in urban, rural, and northern areas of the province (off reserve).

**Media Contact:**

**Margaret Pfoh**  
Chief Executive Officer, AHMA  
604-768-5400  
mpfoh@ahma-bc.org

**Laurie Brownrigg**  
Communications Manager, AHMA  
604-921-2462  
lbrownrigg@ahma-bc.org