



ABORIGINAL HOUSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

CEO Report | January 2010



AHMA is committed to communicating with stakeholders. This monthly e-bulletin from our CEO will update you on AHMA's latest activities.

Andrew Leach, MBA

REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST YEAR

Looking back at the past year, I feel blessed and grateful to work at AHMA with such **wonderful people**—our directors, staff, members, funding partners, and other Aboriginal organizations. I'm especially grateful that AHMA has offered me an enduring opportunity to achieve **meaningful goals** with a dedicated team.

When I joined AHMA in July 2007, our devolution goals seemed monumental. But we have worked hard to achieve this goal together, and **AHMA will reach complete devolution** of off-reserve Aboriginal social housing units this year, as a result.

Now we can turn our attention to **new opportunities**, in particular, providing **more support for members** and addressing homelessness. For example, AHMA collaborated with many of our members in the fall to submit a joint proposal for the new federal funding to **address homelessness**. If successful, we will jointly deliver the first "By Aboriginal for Aboriginal" training program targeting homelessness in Canada.

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2010 AND BEYOND

I am optimistic about the coming year. My wish for 2010 is to have at least three new members sign up, or previous members return, by year end. We are willing to explore whatever it takes, and will meet informally with your society, or make a formal presentation to your directors. **Our door is open** to explore new partnerships and re-establish old ones.

AHMA will achieve complete devolution of off-reserve Aboriginal social housing this year

In addition, I have always had a strong desire to move forward on the issue of Aboriginal homelessness. As you may know, about one-third of the homeless in BC are Aboriginal. We need **Aboriginal leadership and agency** to start making constructive headway on this important issue. During the coming year, we will work on a strategy to address Aboriginal homelessness in BC and identify the role AHMA can play.

On a more personal note, working for AHMA has coincided with a dramatic improvement in my health, which is a good sign of a healthy workplace. Some of our directors and members have joined me occasionally at a yoga class. AHMA has been very supportive of all staff in maintaining **personal wellness plans**, because it is important that work complement, not hinder, a healthy lifestyle and good relationships with family and friends. I extend that hope to all of our members as well.

**On behalf of all of us at AHMA, I sincerely wish everyone a very Happy New Year.
May you have much success, health and happiness in 2010.**