



Aboriginal Housing Management Association  
*Celebrating 25 Years*

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Community leaders stand together to advocate for Indigenous Housing

Unceded traditional territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, Vancouver BC – Community leaders across BC are standing together to demonstrate support for safe, affordable, culturally supportive Indigenous housing in our province. The Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) invited elected officials, municipalities, Indigenous Nations, affordable housing providers, and community stakeholders to join in several well-attended gatherings across the province.

On the one-year anniversary of publicly publishing their research-based Indigenous Housing Strategy for BC, which has garnered national attention, AHMA is now launching a [new video](#). The video features stories of lived experience with housing precarity along with the massive outpouring of support for Indigenous housing from every corner of BC.

“There was no question about the unification and collective backing we saw,” said Margaret Pfoh, AHMA CEO. “For Indigenous, By Indigenous (FIBI) solutions are clearly presented in AHMA’s strategy, and they are the only way forward. Everyone agrees. When it comes to Indigenous housing, the need is great and so is the support – watch our video to see this for yourself.”

“Conversations like these are so important to address the urgent need and create solutions for better housing options for Indigenous individuals, families and Elders in communities across B.C.,” said Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Housing. “I would like to thank the Aboriginal Housing Management Association for the important work it does each and every day in supporting Indigenous Peoples who need safe and affordable housing.”

AHMA’s long-term vision is for every Indigenous community to access and reclaim their inherent rights to housing. This includes support for 75% of urban Indigenous people in BC who don’t live on reserve and instead live away from their Nations and home communities. These gatherings across BC created a unique opportunity for community leaders to advocate for the importance of Indigenous community-led housing and to connect over common goals.

“Nobody should be homeless on their own homeland. And, there is no reconciliation without Indigenous inclusion and leadership. Indigenous housing offers intention, it honors Indigenous diversity and cultures, it also protects our human rights and Indigenous values,” added Pfoh. “We stand collectively to



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demonstrate the role Indigenous housing plays in strengthening our communities, supporting individuals and families, and creating a sense of belonging and wellbeing.”

AHMA’s Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy for BC presents FIBI solutions that will fill the massive void that’s been left in the supply of Indigenous housing. “The federal government needs to respond with appropriate funding for this expert strategy and include it in the national housing strategy,” said Karen Gerein, Executive Director, Vernon Native Housing. “Communities are much stronger when we see the support for Indigenous families who are overrepresented in marginalization.”

View the videos here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2AKffvug0>

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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). AHMA’s members support over 10,000 Indigenous families in BC but many more continue to suffer housing insecurity and homelessness.

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