**On Reserve Housing**

**The Past, The Present, And the Possibilities**

1. Q - Thank you for organizing this very important event. Will the recording be made available?

A - Yes - the recording, slides and any other resources will be posted on the FNHIC-BC website.

1. Q - When will FNHIC be in full operation? What’s the funding for the beginning and early stages of HIC?

A – FNHIC is at the Framework Agreement stage which means there is a lot of work yet to do…two more years? Three? The work is funded by ISC as part of its current policy direction to support the help facilitate the transfers across the country.

1. Q - What is being done to change the standard of the contractor's building on reserve? I am referring to the attitude and quality of building that is still happening on reserve? What is being done to enforce or change this?

A – In the context of FNHIC we believe that a FNs housing delivery system under a FNs authority will develop standards and enforcement and address old attitudes and approaches. Currently many FNs are changing on an individual basis…their successful will form the basis of developing a standard approach.

1. Q – We have a large percentage of our population who live off-reserve and who find themselves homeless, under-housed, renting, etc. What are our plans to work with the off-reserve population?

A - There is a clear message from BC FNs leadership – their members, whether living on or off reserve, are all part of the community and should be part of our housing work. In the past there has been no communication between urban indigenous housing deliverers and FNs. That is changing. FNHIC-BC is beginning to work with the province to examine housing on and off reserves and ways to work together. We are also planning extensive engagement with FNs living off reserves—watch our engagement schedule to find a session in your region.

1. Q - Can you elaborate on the issue of providing rental housing as part of a housing strategy on reserve? Given the understandable resistance to it in the past. Do you see it being acceptable? Needed?

A – Yes there will likely always be a need for rental houses in FNs. Part of the resistence in the past was because of the substandard nature of the housing and because there was no services for renters that are available in most other rental housing programs. I see two solutions 1. Get the proper services to support rentals housing (these are provided in urban social housing programs), and 2. Get adequate management funds to allow FNs to administer the programs, collect rents, maintain the houses, etc. Reserves are looking to provide services to the whole continuum of housing from housing the homeless to financial services to build your dream house.

1. Q - Does the FN Housing & Infrastructure work along with the FN Market Housing Fund?

A - Not at this time. But great question.

1. Q - How effective is the current policies answer in response to the current and future housing needs of the FN?

A – Current ISC policy direction is on two fronts, 1. Attempting to improve current services, and 2. Supporting the transfer initatives in the regions. Improving current services is assisting some FNs in moving ahead, many positive changes are taking place within the current system. The transfer to FNs authority is the long game and each region is struggling to make that happen. In the end that will make the biggest difference to changing the housing paradigm on reserves.

1. Q - How is the First Nation's traditional heritage and culture being incorporated into the design and needs of the FN`s housing design and standards.?

A – Appropriate housing and housing delivery is one of FNHIC-BC’s key themes. By engaging with FNs, using FNs regional engagement coordinators and working under the advisory of a FNs Expert Advisory Group we believe the work FNHIC does will be guided in the right direction in the bigger picture. The actual housing designs will be the choice of each individual and each FN.

1. Q - Can her thesis be emailed? If so can you email it? Thank you. This has been very informative!

Can you please provide suggested resources to help me better learn about and understand the history of FN housing in greater detail? I’m relatively new to asset management/planning in this capacity and want to educate myself as best I can. Thanks! I’d also love to read Sylvia’s Thesis.

Where could one obtain more information on the history if housing that Sylvia presented?

A - Here’s a link to Sylvia’s dissertation. I hope it works.

<https://dspace.library.uvic.ca/bitstream/handle/1828/7239/Olsen_Sylvia_Phd_2016.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

1. Q - Is there a program where a house is paid off but needs renovations where you could apply for but only have to pay half of the amount requested?

A – I am not familiar with such a program. I will check that out.

1. Q - I have some questions about the housing in the North. What options do we have for housing? Our band housing officer is saying there is no more rent to own options, so we’ll never own our homes.

A – As far as I know housing in the northern BC has the same programs and services as in other regions of the province. Perhaps someone will help me out here if I’m wrong. Rent-to-own options are the prerogative of the individual FNs’ policy and each FN can decide for itself if rent-to-own is a good option. Most FNs are offering some sort of rent-to-own option. Perhaps your FN has a buy-out option or some other way for you to gain ownership.

1. Q - Is it permitted to build a house on reserve with a rental suite, duplex, or other?

A – Yes, on reserves that have private mortgage options.

1. Q - Is there any private business or communities collaborating with the FN`s current housing needs?

A – Yes. In the past few years there have been many partnerships emerging. I know the Nuxalk worked closely with Camosun College when building their houses…just one example.

1. Q - Why does this have to only be one hour? This is amazing and I appreciate this …HI to Sylvia

Can we have another session with this team? It would be helpful to have some dialogue

A – We hope to keep these conversations going (with more time for questions)…thanks for your interest.

1. Q - I would like to know about additional funding for on and off-reserve during COVID19?

A – Not yet that I know of that is specifically targeted to building or renovating housing.

1. Q - Is there a subsidy available to fund build a house off-reserve?

A – Not a specific program but I have heard of individual FNs that provide a subsidy.

1. Q - Can you send updates to people who signed up for this webinar?

A – We are working on it. Keep in touch. Our engagement/communications team is expanding and you will see us again soon.

1. Q - I live in an awful house, rundown, unsafe. My community won’t help fix it...like everyone else, no money! But I need to keep me and my boys safe, I am worried everyday if something will happen. I’ve had a scare before with electrical. I have black mold...I worry about my health and the health of my boys. I’d move but can’t afford off reserve rentals. I work but I’m a single Mom. I want to get the ministerial guarantee but my credit isn’t you great but trying to re-establish my credit. What can I do now? I need help! I’m getting depressed having to live in this house. I hope you can give me advice on what to do. I can’t allow me and my children living like this anymore!

A – Your questions are common and difficult as you know. The solutions will come through 1. Working with your housing department to get renovations, credit counseling (your bank will help you here as well), 2. Exploring urban Indigenous housing in a nearby community (this will depend on where you live), 3. Gathering handy family and friends to do a housing blitz…this can help some of your problems…clean, paint and do inexpensive fixes on door handles, chaulking etc…take control of what you can do…then chase down help for what you cannot do yourself.

**Comments**

We have land, we have people, we have water, we have leadership, we have managers, we have financial accountability. What we don’t have is the money to clear, put in water lines and septic.

I do hope there is a recording of this event that we can all spread into the larger community.

Beautifully spoken.

I am from Skidegate and we are remote to services and qualified tradesmen here on Haida Gwaii.

Here is a list of different types of funding available. Check it out!

<https://www.zn-advisory.com/funding-database>

Very good presentation. I can’t wait to share this.

Thank you for the great presentation and discussion!

Question: What do you see differently going forward in the work that the FNHIC is doing now that will be a major shift or change in the future.

Answer: We are now responsible for our future, ourselves. We on the coordinating side have to educate, be patient, work with communities, and provide the tools needed. We need to educate and train and trust the communities to do the work themselves.

Question: We don’t have money for infrastructure, water lines, etc. What will the funding look like?

Answer: We in the past have been a largely funded program, one stop shop funding. There is no intention across the country and other regions being 100% government-funded anymore. There are other ways of funding and financing which First Nations Housing and Infrastructure have not explored.

What is being done to change the standards of the construction and contractors on reserves?

(question was not answered)

When will HIC be in full operation?

A couple of years, we did a survey with First Nations and asked if they wanted it done quickly or over time and the results came back 50/50. It takes time, hurrying them or waiting too long is not useful.

We can only respond to the questions and needs of communities to mobilize, to begin thinking in this process that we can do this ourselves, but we can't do it without you.

What do we do about the First Nations that do not live on Reserves? Those living in urban areas. What policies and processes are we looking at that may help address those community members that don’t live at home?

The project of transferring housing and infrastructure to a First Nations Institution includes all citizens being a part of this discussion. We are beginning to work with BC Housing, housing deliverers, everyone working together which has not happened in the past.

It takes personal initiative, stay connected, get involved, and participate in these conversations. It is important to create a presence and show up.

In the province of BC UNDRIP has been approved and has taken the position of responsibility for people on and off-reserve. It opens the door for us to leave our reserve and help our people off reserve because before we were restricted by the Indian Act to on reserve only. FNHIC is communicating and taking steps to work with and help all our people on and off-reserve.