

Actions to Improve Housing Outcomes for Indigenous Communities across the Housing Continuum

Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee

April 29th, 2025





Agenda

1. Background:

- The Housing Secretariat
- HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan

2. Actions to advance Indigenous Housing

- Key Partnerships & Initiatives
- Ongoing Collaboration & Partnership

About the Housing Secretariat

The Housing Secretariat works in partnership to strengthen and maintain the housing system so Torontonians have access to safe and affordable housing options that are right for them.



**Delivering
New
Affordable
Homes**



**Preserving
Existing
Rental Stock**



**Supporting
Reconciliation
& Equity**



**Improving
Housing
Stability**



**Supporting
Access to
Housing**



**Supporting
Climate
Action**

HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan

- The HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan (“HousingTO Plan”) was adopted by City Council in December 2019.
- The HousingTO Plan is the City’s umbrella housing and homelessness plan, and provides a blueprint for actions and investments across the full housing continuum over 10 years.



Housing TO 2020-2030 Action Plan

The HousingTO Plan guides action on the following outcome areas:

- Creating new supply;
- Protecting and preserving existing supply;
- Supporting renters and improving housing stability;
- Responding to diverse housing needs; and
- Transforming housing policies.

HOW WILL IT BE DONE?

1. Adopt a revised "Toronto Housing Charter – Opportunity for All"
2. Enhance Partnerships with Indigenous Community Partners
3. Prevent Homelessness and Improve Pathways to Housing Stability
4. Provide Pathways to Support Women
5. Maintain and Increase Access to Affordable Rents
6. Meeting the Diverse Housing Needs of Seniors
7. Ensure Well-Maintained and Secure Homes for Renters
8. Support Toronto Community Housing and its Residents
9. Continue the Revitalization of Neighbourhoods
10. Create New Rental Housing Responsive to Residents' Needs
11. Help People Buy and Stay in Their Homes
12. Improve Accountability and Transparency in Delivery of Housing Services to Residents
13. Enhance Partnerships and Intergovernmental Strategy



Enhancing Partnerships with Indigenous Community Partners

The Housing Secretariat's work to improve housing outcomes for Indigenous communities is mainly guided through:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established with Miziwe Biik Development Corporation in 2021, within which the City has committed to the shared goal of **5,200 homes for Indigenous peoples by Indigenous organizations** by 2030.
- An MOU with Toronto Indigenous Community Advisory Board (TICAB) and the Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle (ALFDC), within which the City has committed to **allocating 20% of housing and homelessness grant funding to Indigenous organizations**.

Actions to Advance Indigenous Housing



Our Understanding of Housing and Homelessness Challenges faced by Indigenous Communities

- **Indigenous peoples** are overrepresented among those experiencing homelessness.
 - Indigenous peoples represent 15% of those experiencing homelessness in Toronto and only 2% of the overall population. This is even more significant for Indigenous people staying outdoors (23%). (Street Needs Assessment 2021)
- Over one in six Indigenous people (17.1%) lived in crowded housing that was considered not suitable for the number of people who lived there. (2021 Census)
- Indigenous people were almost three times more likely to live in a dwelling in need of major repairs (16.4%) than the non-Indigenous population (5.7%). (2021 Census)

Key Partnerships and Initiatives

- Key housing programs with a focus on providing services and supports for Indigenous peoples, include:
 - Housing focused client support program through Native Child and Family Services to assist clients exiting homelessness and into housing.
 - Indigenous housing provider Wigwamen became a Local Access Centre for Rent Bank and a referring partner for tenants in arrears in social housing.
 - Pilot Indigenous Mobile ID Clinic to address the gap in services for Indigenous peoples experiencing homelessness and housing instability.
 - Allocation of the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) through Indigenous referral partners
 - Prioritizing access to rent-geared-to-income housing opportunities supported by Thunder Women Healing Lodge Society



Pilot
Indigenous
Mobile ID
Clinic - ALFDC

Key Partnerships and Initiatives Continued

- Further, several of the City's housing programs have set-asides for Indigenous-led housing, including:
 - 20% of the City's Multi-Unit Residential Acquisition Program (MURA) is set aside for Indigenous-led acquisitions since the launch of the program.
 - Over 20% of the City's capital funding allocation through the Federal Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) has been allocated to Indigenous-led and owned projects.
 - 20% set aside of funding for Indigenous housing providers through the City's Community Housing Pre-Development Fund and the Capital Grants Funding stream.



136 Kingston Rd., Akwa
Honsta Aboriginal Homes

Indigenous-led Housing Developments

The City continues to work with Indigenous partners to develop affordable housing for Indigenous peoples in Toronto, including:

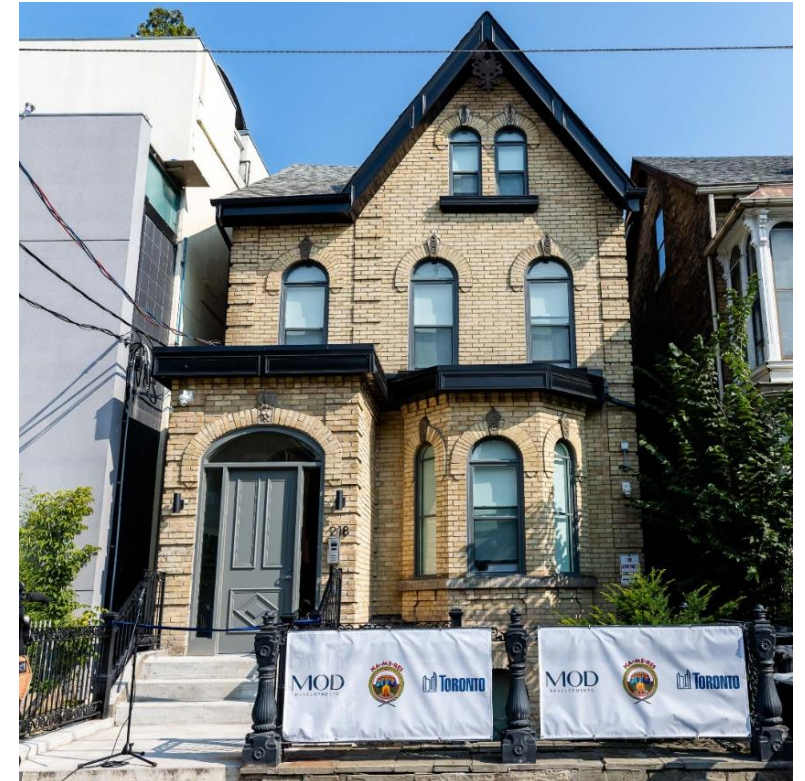
- **140 Merton Street** – This project is being led by Missanabie Cree First Nation and EllisDon Community Builder, and will provide housing for Indigenous elders and other seniors. The project will deliver 294 homes, including 98 affordable rental homes.
- **419-425 Coxwell Avenue** – New Frontiers Aboriginal Residential Corp. developed an Indigenous-led modular project, creating 12 new RGI rental homes for Indigenous households.
- **525 Markham Road** – Wigwamen's Indigenous-led modular project, which will create 62 new RGI rental homes for Indigenous peoples.



140 Merton St., Missanabie
Cree First Nation

Indigenous-led Housing Developments

- Thunder Woman Healing Lodge Society (TWHLS) – transitional housing at **161 Spadina Road** and a healing lodge at **2217 Kingston Road**.
- **218 Carlton Street** – Na-Me-Res (Native Men's Residence) owns and operates this affordable rental property, providing nine studio units for Indigenous men experiencing homelessness; and at **230 Coxwell Avenue**, Na-Me-Res will create 20 affordable housing units.
- **4201-4203 Kingston Rd.** Supporting Gabriel Dumont Non-Profit Homes Inc. to create 68 new affordable rental homes for Indigenous peoples in Toronto.
- **15 Denison Avenue** – In June 2022, City Council approved the conveyance of this site to an Indigenous housing provider to own and operate affordable housing.



218 Carlton St., Na-Me-Res affordable housing

Ongoing Partnership & Collaboration

- Housing Secretariat welcomes new opportunities to work with Indigenous-communities to improve housing outcomes for First Nation, Inuit, and Metis peoples.
 - Engagement on housing policy and program developments;
 - Joint advocacy to other orders of government;
 - Advancing Indigenous-led housing developments;
 - Improving access to housing stability and tenant support services.





THANK YOU