



## April CEO Address

### From the Desk of Candace Bennett, CEO of FNHPA

Kwey Kwey, FNHPA Members, Partners, and Friends,

Spring is here, and with it comes fresh energy and new opportunities. At FNHPA, we're channeling that momentum into our ongoing mission: supporting and elevating the First Nations housing industry and all of you who contribute so diligently to it every single day.

Over the past few months, we've continued to see fantastic engagement in our workshops, growing interest in our PLAR and FNHP certification program, and meaningful collaboration with communities and organizational partners from coast to coast. I want to extend a heartfelt migwetch to everyone who's contributed their time and expertise to driving this important work forward.

### **The Regional Expansion team expands!**

We are also thrilled to announce the addition of Darlene Marshall to our team as the Manager of Regional Expansion. Darlene brings over 30 years of dedicated experience in First Nations housing, having served as the Housing Director and Emergency Management Officer for Eskasoni First Nation in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Her leadership has been instrumental in implementing changes that have enhanced the quality of life for community members.

As a founding board member and former Chair of FNHPA, Darlene has been pivotal in shaping our association's direction and growth. With Darlene at the helm of our regional expansion efforts, we are confident that our initiatives will continue to flourish.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Darlene to her new role!

### **Welcoming new Board Members**

We are also pleased to welcome Frank Horn (Ontario), Robin Cayer-Stevens (Quebec), Jody Mitchell (Atlantic) Bonnie Lavalée (Northern) to the FNHPA Board of Directors! Frank, Robin, Jody and Bonnie all bring extensive experience in housing and governance at the community level. Their combined expertise will significantly contribute to advancing First Nations housing professionalism, and building capacity within communities, nationwide.

### **Upcoming events we'll be attending:**

- Tech Nations Conference (Niagara Falls, ON) | May 12–13, 2025

Our team will be attending Tech Nations in May to explore innovative solutions and build partnerships that benefit our members and improve the quality of life in their communities.

- Atlantic Regional Conference (Truro, NS) | May 27–28, 2025





We're thrilled to be hosting our first-ever Atlantic Canada conference in Halifax! Join us for two days of workshops, networking, and collaborative sessions designed specifically for housing professionals in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador.

Looking ahead, don't forget to save the date for our 4th Annual National Conference in Saskatoon Saskatchewan November 25-27 at TCU Place. It promises to be another inspiring gathering of passionate individuals committed to advancing First Nations housing.

In the meantime, please make use of all the resources at your fingertips—our Knowledge Centre, webinars, and housing tool kits are there to support your career development every step of the way.

Thank you for being part of this vibrant community. Together, we're building a stronger, more sustainable future for First Nations housing.

Kitchi Migwetch,

Candace Bennett, FNHP, CIL, CAPA

Chief Executive Officer

First Nations Housing Professionals Association (FNHPA)

