**Updates from FNHPA - content**

[March 11, 2019 – Membership information now available!](https://fnhpa.ca/events/updates-from-fnhpa/membership-information-now-available/)

New – Check out our [**membership page**](https://fnhpa.ca/membership/) to access the information guide that outlines the paths to certification and other details on getting involved with FNHPA.

­­­[February 7, 2019 – Management Team Announcement](https://fnhpa.ca/events/updates-from-fnhpa/the-fnhpa-management-team/)

The FNHPA Board is pleased to announce that AMCES Ltd. (Association Management and Consulting) has been engaged to support the establishment and day to day management of the organization. AMCES will also be facilitating the development of standards and services.

Over the next couple of years AMCES will provide the day to day association management expertise and put in place systems and practices to support the board, members and services. AMCES will also provide the consulting expertise to assist with the design, development and implementation of competency, ethical and certification standards.

AMCES is not new to working with First Nation not-for-profits. The Managing Partner of AMCES, Jim Pealow first started his involvement with organizations in the late 90s by supporting the AFN/CGA Accountability Project. Arising from this project was the creation of AFOA (Aboriginal Financial Officers Association) now called AFOA Canada. Jim facilitated the founding board, arranged for the incorporation, and served as the Executive Director putting in place association management systems and practices. He also worked with the leaders to establish standards and services such as certification, courses, exams, the first conference and recruitment of its first Aboriginal Executive Director. In addition, he was active in working with regional groups to establish AFOA chapters. Jim developed several courses for AFOA and has been a course instructor for more than 17 years and a committee volunteer for at least 12 years. For information on AFOA: [www.afoa.ca](http://www.afoa.ca/)

Jim’s dedication and work was noticed by another group hoping to establish a First Nations professional association. The First Nations Health Managers Association (FNHMA) called upon his knowledge and experience to assist with their organizational development, association management, standard setting and design, development and implementation of certification and other projects and services (funding, publications, events, exams, etc.) Once operations were in place and the FNHMA Board was ready, AMCES assisted with the transfer of association management services to a fully First Nations staff. For information on FNHMA: [www.fnhma.ca](http://www.fnhma.ca/)

AMCES (Jim Pealow and his team) provides a unique expertise and has a reputation for doing great work and getting things done. We are pleased to have AMCES support FNHPA on its journey to becoming the centre for professional standards and certification for existing and future First Nations housing managers across Canada. For information on AMCES: [www.amces.com](http://www.amces.com/)

[January 1, 2019 – Press Release Announcing FNHPA Incorporation](https://fnhpa.ca/events/updates-from-fnhpa/press-release/)

A new First Nations professional group will begin work on January 1, 2019. This new group is the First Nations Housing Professionals Association (FNHPA) or Association des professionnels de l’habitation des Premières Nations (APHPN).

The FNHPA is a national not-for-profit voluntary association whose purpose is to provide the means whereby FN housing managers and staff can better serve their communities and clients by developing, promoting and delivering quality standards, practices, certification, education, and by facilitating networking opportunities within the FN housing sector. By doing so, the FNHPA will provide the leadership and services to support housing professionals.

Housing managers have a key role in First Nations communities. They work with leadership, other departments and community members to acquire new housing and ensure the current housing stock is maintained. Each First Nations community requires access to a qualified housing professional. Staff need access to training and experience to plan, finance, build, manage and maintain housing assets.

As a professional development organization, FNHPA will play a key role in providing housing staff access to learning opportunities to expand their competencies and get recognition for their expertise. The FNHPA is the organization to lead professional development for First Nations housing across the country.

The FNHPA is not the only First Nations-led association developing capacity for First Nations. The First Nations Health Managers Association (FNHMA) and AFOA Canada are two other high profile, successful, not-for-profit associations. Both are engaged in certification and education activities and have made great strides in advancing professional competencies. The FNHPA’s Board hopes that its new association will, over time, become as relevant and successful as the other two.

The FNHPA aims to:

* develop standards for competency, certification and ethical conduct;
* provide members with timely, relevant educational products and services to support and enhance the role of First Nations housing professionals;
* assist with standard setting for First Nations housing matters and the interpretation of and training on these standards;
* attract members who are proud to belong, have a desire to obtain and maintain a professional housing designation, wish to participate in networks, and are committed to sharing FNHPA’s purpose; and
* build relationships and partnerships with organizations looking to expand First Nations housing capacity.

The benefits of the FNHPA will lead to:

* solid skills and management practices of First Nations housing staff, which will improve community housing services;
* increased community ability to attract and retain housing professionals;
* training, development and certification;
* networking support for First Nations housing professionals; and
* a cultural lens on housing matters.

The founding Board of Directors of the FNHPA was established on Thursday, November 15, 2018. Board members are:

* Darlene Marshall, Chair; Eskasoni First Nation, NS
* Rosie Charles, Vice-Chair; Prince Albert Grand Council, SK
* Harvey McCue, Secretary Treasurer; McCue Consulting, Ottawa, ON
* Darlene Chevrier, Director; Timiskaming First Nation, QC
* Frank French, Director; Chippewas of the Thames, ON
* Roxanne Harper, Director; Turtle Island Associates, Ottawa, ON
* Mario LaPointe, Director; Eel Ground First Nation, NB
* Sylvia Olsen, Director; Olsen and Olsen Associates / Vancouver Island University, North Saanich, BC

If you know someone involved in First Nations housing activities, share the good news with them. Visit [www.fnhpa.ca](http://www.fnhpa.ca) to register for updates and follow the FNHPA’s progress as it begins its journey.

**For more information, please contact:**

Darlene Marshall, Chair of the Board

Eskasoni First Nation

or

Christina Mash, Interim Executive Director

613-702-0440 / 1-800-360-6114

202-300 March Road, Ottawa, ON K2K 2E2