



CEO Message – May 2025

Candace Bennett, CEO – First Nations Housing Professionals Association (FNHPA)

Kwey Kwey, FNHPA Members, Partners, and Friends,

May has been an exciting and meaningful month at FNHPA as we continue building momentum in First Nations housing across the country. From national events to community-driven initiatives, I'm proud to share a few special highlights with you.

Taking place May 27–28, FNHPA will be hosting the first-ever Atlantic Gathering! This is a fantastic opportunity to bring together First Nations housing staff and professionals from across the Atlantic region to connect, collaborate, and learn from one another. Events like this are vital for sharing best practices, building relationships, and working together toward sustainable housing solutions.

In Manitoba, we're celebrating the success of our first Manitoba Intensive Program (MIP), where nine students recently completed their courses and wrote their national exams this spring. Building on that momentum, two more cohorts are now underway. The second cohort began Course 300 this May, with 13 students diving into the Management of Housing Programs. Meanwhile, a third group of 20 students will begin Course 100—focused on First Nations Housing and Infrastructure—this summer. In total, 42 students from across Manitoba are advancing through the MIP, building their knowledge and capacity to lead housing initiatives in their communities.

Our MRP team has also been busy raising awareness about the program. They recently delivered a presentation to the Canadian Bar Association – British Columbia, participated in the TechNations Conference in Niagara Falls, and held virtual meetings with four First Nations communities to support the implementation of MRP laws. These sessions included guest presentations on FNHPA programs and an introduction to the Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act (FHRMIRA).

If your community or organization would benefit from support on MRP-related matters, our Regional Consultants are here to help. To get in touch, please contact FNHPA directly or visit our website for your regional consultant's contact information.

Another proud moment for us is the launch of our brand-new podcast: Bannock & Teatime—now available on Spotify and YouTube! Our first two episodes feature:

- A Youth Perspective on First Nations Housing with Lily-Anne Mount Pleasant
- Studs and Sustainability with Rosie Charles

This podcast features real conversations about the First Nations housing industry, exploring challenges, solutions, and powerful stories from across the country. Be sure to tune in and follow along.





We're also thrilled to introduce two new members of the FNHPA family—our official mascots for the Keeper of My Home program! After inviting our community to help name them, we're proud to welcome Tucker the Turtle 🐢 and Miki the Beaver 🦫. These characters will guide youth in learning about home maintenance, safety, and pride in their homes and communities. Thank you to everyone who participated in the naming contest—your creativity made it unforgettable. Tucker and Miki have many adventures ahead, and we can't wait to share them with you!

Through these initiatives and so many more, FNHPA remains committed to supporting the First Nations housing industry through education, certification, collaboration, and culturally grounded tools. Thank you for continuing to walk this path with us.

Kitchi Migwetch,

Candace Bennett, FNHP, CIL, CAPA Chief Executive Officer First Nations Housing Professionals Association (FNHPA)

