



CEO Message – September 2025

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

Kwey Kwey FNHPA Members,

We hope your summer was filled with memorable moments, time with family, some relaxation, and maybe even a few exciting adventures. As the warm days give way to cooler breezes and the kids head back to school, this season reminds us of new beginnings and fresh opportunities. Fall is a time to refocus and plan ahead. At the First Nations Housing Professionals Association (FNHPA), that means continuing to support the First Nations housing industry in achieving the highest standards in their work.

This season brings renewed energy to our mission of building capacity and strengthening housing governance across all First Nations communities. We're committed to ensuring everyone who works in this industry has the tools, resources, and support needed to succeed.

Welcome to Our New Team Members

Over the summer, the FNHPA family grew! We are thrilled to introduce four new staff members who bring expertise and passion to our organization:

- Mercedes Sandy – MRP Administrative Clerk
- Sabrina Shahidi – Human Resources Manager
- Mindy Denny – Data Analytics Manager
- Brandon Barberstock – IT Coordinator

Their contributions will strengthen our ability to deliver programs, engage members, and continue raising the standard for housing professionalism across Canada.

Education Department Welcomes New Students

As we welcome new students to the fall semester, the Education Department is excited to continue supporting learning and professional growth across our membership. Here are some tips for success:

Expectations & Tips for Success

- **Participation:** Contribute to the in-person discussions and online internet research discussion pages.
- **Assignments:** Submit by the due dates listed in the course. If you anticipate a delay, request an extension before the deadline in line with policy, we can only give a 72-hour extension on assignments.
- **Communication:** Reach out early if you need support—your instructors and our team are here to help.





On behalf of FNHPA, welcome again to our new students! We're thrilled to have you in the Fall 2025 cohort.

Membership Update: Explore the FNHPA Event Calendar

We're excited to introduce the FNHPA Event Calendar! This curated resource features housing-related events from FNHPA and trusted partners across Canada. From training opportunities and workshops to conferences, webinars, and networking events, this calendar is your go-to hub for professional development in First Nations housing.

Check back often for updates and new opportunities to learn, grow, and connect with the wider housing community. Have an event you'd like to share? Let us know, and we will feature it on our calendar to help spread the word!

Matrimonial Real Property (MRP) Program Update: Regional Workshops on the Way

Our Matrimonial Real Property (MRP) Program provides critical guidance and support to those facing the division of property during family breakdown or separation. This program ensures fair and culturally respectful solutions that protect families, homes, and communities.

We're excited to announce that the MRP team will be hosting a series of Regional Engagement Sessions, starting with:

- October 7–8 – Crowne Plaza Hotel, Moncton, NB

These sessions are designed to provide direct engagement, answer questions, and share best practices around matrimonial real property.

Regional Expansion Update: Workshops

Our Regional Expansion Team is also hitting the road this fall to connect with housing staff and Tribal Councils across the country:

- September 8–12 – Saskatchewan Regional Workshops

These gatherings are an excellent opportunity for housing leaders to network, learn, and collaborate as we continue to advance housing standards.

Housing & Wellness Department Update

This summer, the Housing & Wellness team updated our guides for youth, housing staff, and tenants to ensure they are practical, meaningful, and responsive to community needs. They also expanded the *Keeper of My Home* program with new resources for more creative and accessible learning, while beginning development of a collaborative toolkit that bridges housing and health.

Looking ahead to fall, they are preparing to launch the updated guides, share new approaches to housing and wellness at gatherings and conferences, and explore opportunities for future in-person workshops and youth sessions.





First Nations Housing
Professionals Association

L'Association des professionnels de
l'habitation des Premières Nations

In closing, this season is a fresh opportunity to deepen relationships, share our collective expertise, and uphold the highest standards in housing. Through collaboration, we can continue to make a meaningful impact in our communities.

Kitchi Migwetch,

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

