



HOUSING &
INFRASTRUCTURE
COUNCIL

Developing a made-in-BC First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Authority



Designed for First Nations, By First Nations

The Housing & Infrastructure Council of British Columbia (HIC) is working to create a First Nations-controlled housing & infrastructure authority (Authority) in British Columbia. Once established, the Authority will assume responsibility for First Nations housing and infrastructure services and associated programs in BC.





How We Got Here

Creation of this new Authority is a step towards Indigenous self-government and the goals of First Nations and federal governments for housing transformation under the federal government's national Indigenous Housing Strategy and the Assembly of First Nations' national First Nations Housing Strategy.

A Made-In-BC First Nations Model

Being community driven is essential to the successful creation of the delivery model. Extensive engagement, consultation and collaboration with the BC First Nations housing and infrastructure community and leadership is essential to achieving success. To ensure the delivery model meets the needs of First Nations, HIC is engaging First Nations, government, associations, agencies, organizations, urban Indigenous and other related service providers plus any others who can contribute towards its mandate.

HIC Mandate

As a step in the path towards Indigenous self-government, to manage the process to design and implement a First Nation's controlled Housing & Infrastructure Authority in British Columbia that will:

- Assume authority and control for First Nations housing & infrastructure program delivery in British Columbia; and
- Deliver associated housing and infrastructure services.

Driven by BC First Nations

BC First Nations leadership provided the mandate for HIC to carry out this work. The BC First Nations community has been shaping development of the Authority since HIC's inception and will continue to contribute throughout this journey. HIC is engaging First Nations communities and organisations across BC to ensure their experience, expertise and best practices contribute to the model for service delivery. BC First Nations will formally approve any final agreement that implements the Authority. Anyone with a role or experience in delivering housing and infrastructure in our communities is encouraged to get involved and be part of the design.



Community Engagement

HIC's engagement with First Nations involves several phases and multiple rounds of outreach sessions, workshops forums and other methods to contribute to development of an Authority.

- Phase 1 was focused on building understanding of the initiative and gathering preliminary community input to support the initial design of the Authority to develop three concepts for the housing and infrastructure authority's delivery design.
- Phase 2 is looking to further refine the design of the new delivery model and additional details to inform an agreement that transfers housing and infrastructure authorities (including programs and services) from the federal government to the new BC authority.

The Future of Service Delivery

The new Authority will assume responsibility for or draw down the federal government's authorities and have the ability to determine its own programs and services, including using other delivery agents to help deliver those programs and services (like the federal government does now). The transfer of federal authorities means the new Authority will be fully responsible and accountable for designing and delivering housing and infrastructure programs and services to BC First Nations. The Authority will not only replace Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), it will expand the housing portfolio as it pursues private sector, provincial or other funding and financing mechanisms unavailable to ISC and other government agencies.

A Design Model Envisioned

Important design questions are being addressed with the input of BC First Nations, housing and infrastructure service providers and professionals during the delivery model development process, including the Authority's:

- Core directives, culture, location, governance, financial relationships, harmonization, integration of on and off reserve and other design elements.
- Organizational structure (corporate planning), programs, services, roles and responsibilities (provincial, regional, communities), policies and standards, and supporting service providers.
- The final set of services and infrastructure to be delivered is still being determined, but the full range housing and infrastructure services are being considered.



The Vision – Outcomes of a New Authority	
1	First Nations with full responsibility for their own Housing & Infrastructure in the province, in each First Nation and within the individuals in each family—change of paradigm from dependency to self-determination.
2	Improved Housing & Infrastructure services for First Nations across the housing continuum from housing the homeless to creating financing mechanisms for people who want to design and build their own home.
3	A First Nations designed and managed institution that uses cutting edge Housing & Infrastructure specialists from across the country.
4	Housing & Infrastructure services that close the gap between on and off reserve to reduce the barriers people encounter moving between communities and between have and have not First Nations—a no-First Nation-left-behind approach.
5	Housing & Infrastructure services that close the gap between on reserve Housing & Infrastructure and the BC mainstream.

Creating a First Nations Driven, Designed & Managed Institution

The goal is a model that empowers and enables First Nations to deliver the housing and infrastructure services they envision for their community. First Nations will assume full control and responsibility for their own housing, in the province and each First Nation. The Authority will:

- Be community service-oriented, make more community-based funding decisions and establish new sources and methods of revenues;
- Provide the tools, resources, education, training and support to those responsible for delivering housing and infrastructure; and
- Make available a full scope of financial tools for new builds, additions, repairs and renovations.

Federal Government Collaboration

HIC has been working closely with Indigenous Services Canada to contribute to co-development of the future Housing & Infrastructure Authority and facilitate a smooth transition.

- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding that commits the parties to the collaborative development of a housing and infrastructure authority for BC's First Nations.
- Developed a joint workplan that identifies key milestones to create an Authority towards the goal of transferring authorities, programs and services to the new Authority.
- Working towards an agreement-in-principle for a to-be-negotiated agreement that outlines terms of a transfer of housing and infrastructure authorities from Canada to the Authority.