REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Matrimonial Real Property (MRP) Regional Consultant

The First Nations Housing Professionals Association (FNHPA) is seeking proposals from qualified individuals or firms to provide Regional Consultant services in support of the Matrimonial Real Property (MRP) Program.

FNHPA intends to engage one (1) Regional Consultant to support the planning, development, delivery, and implementation of MRP-related services, education, and capacity development for First Nations communities.

Regions

FNHPA is seeking proposals for the following the regional service areas:

1. **Manitoba / Ontario**
2. **Quebec / Atlantic**

This is a Request for Proposal (RFP) and not an invitation to tender.

FNHPA reserves the right to:

- Accept any proposal without negotiation
- Negotiate changes to the technical or financial content of the successful proposal(s)
- Reject any or all proposals
- Cancel, amend, or reissue this RFP at any time

All information contained in this RFP is proprietary to FNHPA and may not be disclosed to any third party without prior written consent.

RFP Contact

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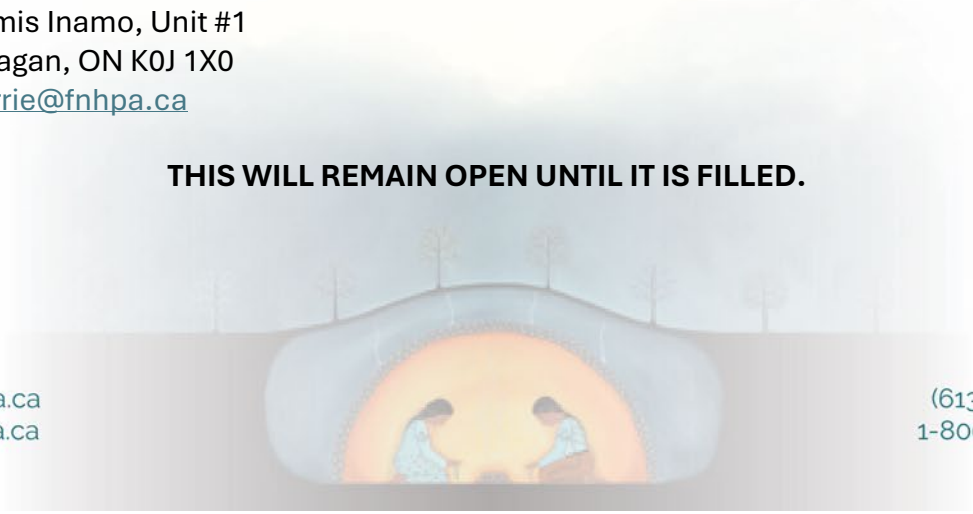


Background

The First Nations Housing Professionals Association (FNHPA) is the only national organization in Canada dedicated exclusively to supporting current and aspiring First Nations housing professionals. As the central hub for professional standards, certification, and support services, FNHPA plays a vital role in strengthening housing capacity within First Nations communities.

As the leading authority in First Nations housing education and capacity development, the FNHPA develops professional standards and provides certification, training, and knowledge exchange to housing professionals working in First Nation communities across Canada. Our efforts help to advance the goals of First Nations housing departments on-reserve, ensuring housing professionals are well-equipped to serve their communities effectively.

At the FNHPA, we value the critical importance of responsible data governance in supporting our mission and protecting First Nations information. We are committed to upholding the principles of OCAP®—Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession—as foundational to our data governance practices. These principles affirm the inherent rights of First Nations to govern their own data and ensure that all First Nation data is managed in a manner that respects and reinforces First Nation data sovereignty.

FNHPA Directive

Vision:

FNHPA is the centre for professional standards, certification and other services for existing and future First Nations housing professionals across Canada.

Mission:

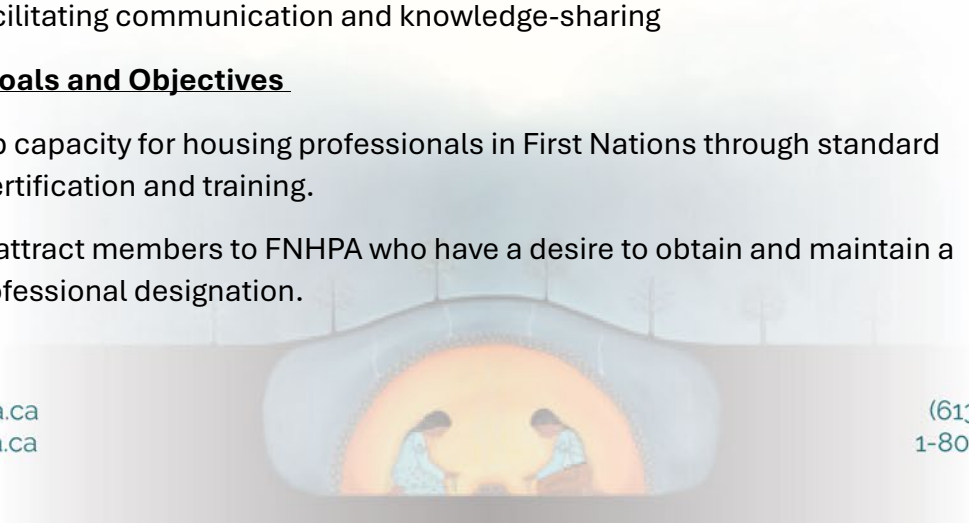
FNHPA supports existing and future housing professionals in serving their communities by:

1. Providing national standards
2. Delivering education and certification programs
3. Facilitating communication and knowledge-sharing

FNHPA Goals and Objectives

To develop capacity for housing professionals in First Nations through standard setting, certification and training.

1. To attract members to FNHPA who have a desire to obtain and maintain a professional designation.



2. To engage, promote and communicate while enhancing credibility.
3. To support First Nations with timely and relevant products and services to enhance housing capacity.
4. To obtain government, business and political support, and develop partnerships with like-minded organizations.
5. To pursue the vision and mission in an innovative, effective and financially responsible manner.

Project Purpose

Building Strong Foundations for Housing, Land, and Family Stability

FNHPA's MRP Program is designed to strengthen First Nations capacity to understand, manage, and implement Matrimonial Real Property rights under either:

- the Provisional Federal Rules (PFRs) under FHRMIRA, or
- a First Nation's own enacted MRP law

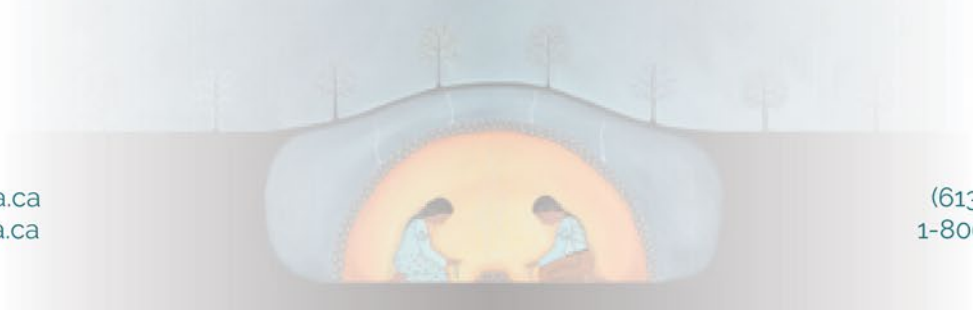
The program provides:

- Education and awareness
- Policy and law development support
- Training and capacity development
- Advisory and referral services
- Community engagement and practical implementation tools

FNHPA will engage one (1) Regional Consultant for a one-year term to support this work and help ensure First Nations have access to timely, practical, and culturally relevant MRP guidance.

The successful Consultant will serve as subject matter experts and provide guidance, education, and support regarding:

- The *Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act* (FHRMIRA)
- First Nation MRP laws
- Related family, housing, and land-based laws, policies, and processes that may intersect with Matrimonial Real Property matters in First Nation communities
- Community-based approaches to MRP implementation and support



The Consultant will act as a primary resource for community members, Housing staff, Lands staff, and leadership, ensuring timely, supportive, culturally informed, and accurate guidance on MRP-related matters.

Building Strong Foundations for Housing, Land, and Family Stability

FNHPA's MRP Program strengthens First Nations capacity to manage and implement MRP rights under their own laws and governance structures. The program provides education, policy support, training, and advisory services to housing and lands staff, leadership, enforcement partners, and community members.

Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Support and Capacity

Through ongoing education and engagement, FNHPA has been building the knowledge and confidence of housing and lands staff to ensure MRP laws are applied consistently and fairly contributing to stable housing, stronger governance, and safer communities.

This work supports stable housing, stronger governance, family safety, and community confidence in navigating MRP matters.

Scope of Services

The Consultant will provide the following services:

1. **Primary Contact and Response**
    - Act as the primary contact for all MRP-related inquiries from First Nations, community members, and Housing and Lands staff.
    - Continue providing the existing referral service in a supportive, timely, and professional manner to ensure community members and staff receive accurate guidance.
    - Ensure all referrals are tracked using the referral system which will ensure effective and efficient responses to outline all inquiries for successful implementation.
2. **Subject Matter Expertise**
    - Serve as MRP subject matter experts, offering assistance and guidance to First Nation communities and Housing and Lands staff.
    - Support the navigation of FHRMIRA and MRP legislation, providing advice, explanations, and recommendations throughout the referral process.

3. **Advice on Legislation**
    - Deliver clear guidance on FHRMIRA and explain how the legislation applies to First Nations.
    - Provide community members and Housing and Lands staff with a sample schedule indicating when the consultant can be contacted (designated days and hours) to seek advice on FHRMIRA, MRP laws, and related legislation.
    - Ensure responses are timely and accessible, reflecting the consultant's responsibility to the community.
4. **Support and Guidance**
    - Assist communities and staff in understanding their rights and responsibilities under MRP legislation, whether under the Provisional Federal Rules (PFRs) or their own community law.
    - Provide ongoing guidance to ensure communities are supported in navigating MRP processes effectively.
5. **Community Engagement and Education**
    - Continue delivering engagement and in-person community presentations to support understanding of MRP legislation and related rights and responsibilities and enacting own laws.
    - Provide training, tools, and guidance to help Housing and Lands staff, leadership, and community members navigate MRP processes effectively.

Deliverables

At minimum, the successful Consultant(s) will be expected to provide:

- Ongoing referral response and case support
- Participation in regular coordination and touchpoint meetings with FNHPA
- Regional advice and issue escalation, as needed
- Delivery of agreed-upon education, presentations, or engagement sessions
- Monthly or quarterly activity summaries, as requested by FNHPA
- Contributions to program development, tools, or materials where applicable

Required Qualifications and Experience

The ideal Consultant(s) will demonstrate the following:

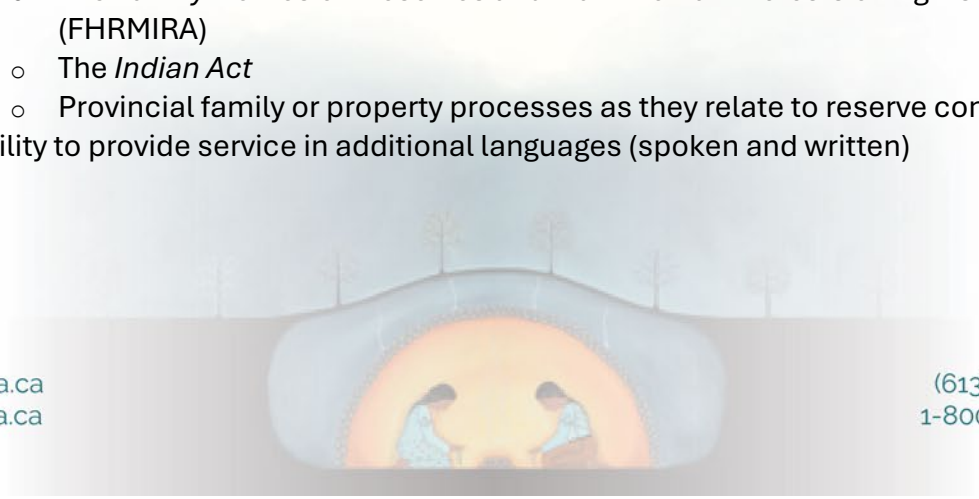
Mandatory Qualifications

- Demonstrated knowledge of:
  - FHRMIRA
  - Matrimonial Real Property (MRP)
  - First Nation housing systems and practices
  - First Nation land regimes and land-related processes
- Experience working with:
  - First Nations communities
  - First Nation organizations, Tribal Councils, housing authorities, or similar organizations
- Strong understanding of:
  - Housing tenures and occupancy arrangements
  - Housing agreements and housing-related dispute considerations
  - Community-based approaches to service delivery and support
- Ability to communicate complex legal or policy concepts in a clear and accessible way
- Ability to travel regularly, hold a valid driver's licence, and work evenings/weekends as required
- Willingness to undergo a satisfactory criminal record check if requested

Preferred/Asset Qualifications

The following would be considered strong assets:

- First Nation Housing Professional (FNHP) designation
- National Aboriginal Land Manager's Association (NALMA) Land designation or related certification
- Legal, paralegal, or related justice-sector education/designation
- Strong understanding of family court processes in the region applied for
- In-depth knowledge of:
  - The *Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act* (FHRMIRA)
  - The *Indian Act*
  - Provincial family or property processes as they relate to reserve contexts
- Ability to provide service in additional languages (spoken and written)



Proposal Requirements (OCAP® & Data Governance)

FNHPA maintains a strict commitment to OCAP® principles as the foundation of its data governance practices. All vendors must comply with mandatory data sovereignty protocols as outlined in FNHPA policy. Requirements are binding within the RFP and any resulting agreement.

FNHPA asserts full intellectual and cultural ownership over all frameworks, methodologies, and knowledge developed through this project. All practices must be culturally informed, inclusive, trauma-aware, and grounded in First Nations knowledge systems.

FNHPA retains the right to require partners to enter into Data Governance Agreements with the FNHPA and consult legal experts to uphold First Nation data sovereignty to ensure full compliance with OCAP® standards.

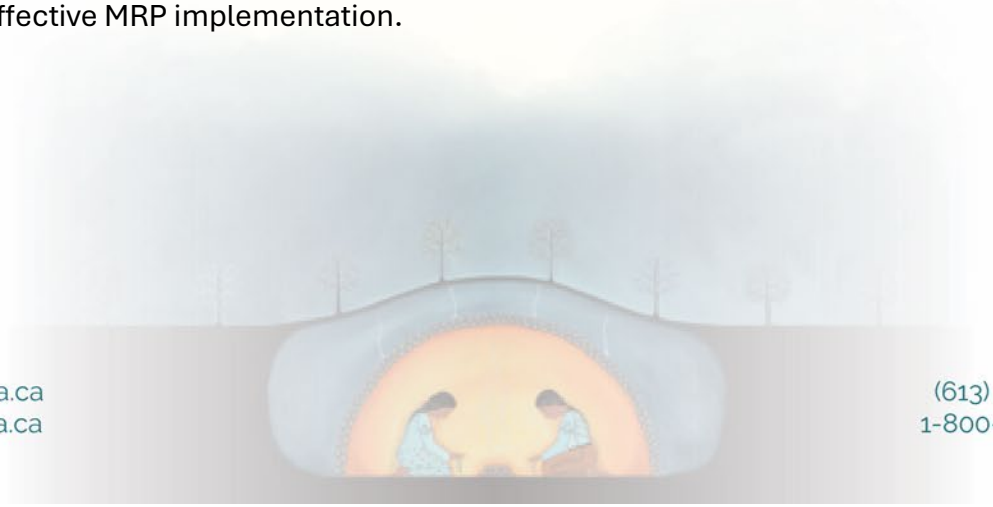
Project Timeframe:

Capacity development and referral services:

- August 2026 to March 31, 2027.

Selection Process:

All proposals will be reviewed by the Manager of MRP and the Chief Executive Officer who will be responsible for the preliminary selection of the Regional Consultant. The following factors will be considered when assessing your submission:

a) Breadth of expertise available and appropriateness to the Association's needs.
b) Level of service in addressing client needs (references).
c) Level of experience and knowledge of MRP and First Nation Housing.
d) Experience working with a First Nation, First Nation Association or organization.
e) Estimated fees for cost for specialty work.

FNHPA welcomes proposals from qualified First Nations professionals, consultants, and organizations who bring strong regional knowledge, cultural competency, and a commitment to supporting First Nations in strengthening housing, land, and family stability through effective MRP implementation.