



Indigenous Housing Program

Indigenous Housing Program

Presenter: Peter Smith





**Habitat for Humanity
Canada is a member
of Habitat for
Humanity
International.**

Photo: NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center/Reto Stöckli




Habitat for Humanity International was established in 1976 and has grown to become a leading global nonprofit working in more than 70 countries.

Photo: NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center/Reto Stöckli

A satellite photograph of a large lake system, likely the Great Lakes region, with a yellow outline of Canada overlaid on the image. The text is positioned on the right side of the image, overlaid on a blue rectangular background.

**There are 56 local
Habitats working in
every Canadian
province and
territory.**


Photo: NASA World Wind, Blue Marble Next-Generation



**Homeowners help build
and purchase their
Habitat homes with zero
down payment and an
interest-free, affordable
mortgage.**



The homeowners who partner with us volunteer up to 500 hours of their own time in “sweat equity.”



As Habitat homeowners pay off their mortgage, the money is invested into a revolving fund, which is used by their local Habitat to build more homes with low-income families in the community.



We build homes in different forms, ranging from single-detached to multi-unit to mixed-use.



Our portfolio of projects also includes renovations and retrofits that help preserve the stock of affordable housing.

What We Do

We bring communities together. The Habitat for Humanity model is based on a partnership between:



The homeowner.



The community.



Volunteers.



The private sector.



All levels of government.

What We Do

We help build more than affordable housing. We provide a foundation for families to thrive.

Affordable homeownership, and having a safe and decent place to live, has a transformational impact on a family's life.



Better employment.



Better educational and health outcomes.



Stronger community engagement.



Since 1985, X,XXX families have accessed a safe and decent home by partnering with Habitat in Canada.

The Impact

86%

reported they were happier since moving into their Habitat home.

89%

reported their family life had improved since moving into their Habitat home.

78%


reported their family's health had improved since moving into their Habitat home.

Source: 2012 CMHC survey of Habitat Canada homeowners



Indigenous Housing Program

The Indigenous Housing Program



“Homeownership I see as one of those vehicles we can use to attain self-sufficiency for our people.”

– James Allen, Chief of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations

Source: CBC News, "Yukon First Nation partners with Habitat for Humanity"

Why the Indigenous Housing Program?

Today, 1.67 million Indigenous people live in Canada and many of them are in need of a safe and decent place to live.



One in five Indigenous people in Canada live in housing in need of major repairs.



Indigenous people in Canada are more than three times as likely to live in housing in need of major repairs.



One in five Indigenous people in Canada live in over-crowded housing.



Indigenous people in Canada are more than twice as likely to live in overcrowded housing.

*CMHC, Canadian Housing Observer, 2014;
Canada 2016 Census.*

The Challenge

Many families in Canada, especially those living on traditional territories (First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities), face issues that include:



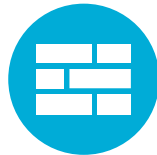
Overcrowding.



Dilapidated housing.



General lack of affordability.



Remoteness.



Lack of gainful employment.



Unhealthy living conditions.



Habitat Canada is encouraged to see the federal government continuing its important work collaborating with First Nations, Inuit and Métis to create and implement an Indigenous Housing Strategy.



**There is more work to be done,
and we cannot do it alone.**

Taking Action

Indigenous peoples have a deep spiritual, physical, social and cultural connection to their land. Building homes within Indigenous communities must be undertaken with the support of the community.

To better address the specific challenges facing Indigenous families, Habitat Canada launched its Indigenous Housing Program in 2007.



In partnership with Indigenous communities.



Supported by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).



Agreement signed with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) in 2011 with the ultimate goal of increasing First Nations' involvement in Habitat projects even further.

How We Help

The Indigenous Housing Program partners with Indigenous communities to provide a foundation for families to thrive through:



Homeownership.



Skills training.



Empowerment and capacity building.

Homeownership

Habitat Canada's Indigenous Housing Program partners with Indigenous families and communities to create a safe and decent place to live through affordable homeownership.

166

families have accessed affordable homeownership to date, including 38 on First Nations, Métis Settlements and traditional territories.

300

By 2020 our goal is to partner with more than 300 Indigenous families under the Indigenous Housing Program.

Skills and Training

We also provide skills and training opportunities to Indigenous youth to equip them with trade skills they use to maintain and/or create new homes in their communities.

100

Indigenous youth and women obtained trade skills and construction training in 2016.

200

By 2020, our goal is to provide 200 Indigenous youth and women with skills training opportunities every year.

Indigenous Youth and Women Skills Training

Many local Habitats have partnered with high schools, colleges and universities across Canada to provide apprentice opportunities for Indigenous youth. Students earn school credits, obtain valuable hands-on experience, develop marketable job skills and strengthen life skills while working on a Habitat home.



In Saskatchewan, 40 students (including Indigenous students) built a home for an Indigenous family.



At Tobique First Nation, Habitat provided opportunities for five youth from the community to obtain hands-on experience in home building.



Duck Lake Indigenous youth participated with Habitat in building new homes and retrofitting existing homes to improve their trade skills.



Youth from Curve Lake First Nation participated with Habitat to frame Habitat homes in Warsaw, Ontario.



In the Kingston area, local Indigenous youth gained hands-on experience and professional mentorship.

Empowerment and Capacity Development

As well as training Indigenous youth and women, Habitat's collaboration enabled partnering Indigenous communities to:



Strengthen their housing management abilities.



Build their internal capacity to introduce affordable homeownership as a sustainable housing solution on and off reserves.



Collectively renew a sense of pride, and build individual strength and self-reliance, by volunteering together as a community.

2017 Results

26

Indigenous families
realized homeownership

42

Indigenous partnership homes
in progress

140

Indigenous youth accessed skills
and training opportunities

Social Return On Investment

On average, Habitat generates \$175,000 worth of benefits to society per home.

In 2016, Habitat's Indigenous Housing Program created a social return on investment of \$6 million based on the completion of 34 homes.



Reduced reliance on social housing and food banks.



Better educational and employment outcomes.



Improved health.



Indigenous Housing Program

Our Projects





Métis Capital Housing Corporation



Métis Capital Housing Corporation

In 2011, the Métis Capital Housing Corporation (MCHC) faced a difficult dilemma: it looked like they would have to sell some rental houses in order to generate funds to repair or rebuild others.

Instead, Habitat for Humanity Edmonton partnered with MCHC in order to renovate the houses and sell them back to low-income Indigenous families through no-interest and geared-to-income mortgages.



Avoided decreasing the housing stock available to Indigenous families.



Offered 10 families the long-term benefits and pride that come with homeownership.



In 2014, a second partnership resulted in homes for three new Métis Habitat homeowners.



Tobique First Nation



Tobique First Nation

Amanda, born and raised at Tobique First Nation in New Brunswick, had moved away to study and work. Now, with two young children, she wanted to live closer to her family in the community where she was raised.

But Tobique First Nation has been experiencing severe housing shortages and many existing homes are in poor condition. So in 2016, Habitat Fredericton partnered with Tobique First Nation to build the first new home in the community in 13 years.



The first ever Habitat home constructed on reserve in Atlantic Canada.



Addressed overcrowding and the housing deficit.



Included a youth skills training component for five youth from the community.



Amanda's youngest son, who had been struggling while in school in Fredericton, is now thriving at the local school.



The Habitat home is part of a larger initiative to introduce sustainable homeownership in the community.



Takhini River “First House”



Takhini River “First House”

The settlement land of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations is just outside Whitehorse, Yukon. The Takhini River settlement is one of their newest communities, home to many young families.



In 2012, Habitat for Humanity Yukon partnered with Champagne and Aishihik First Nations to provide more of those families with the opportunity to become homeowners.



Made homeownership possible for three low-income First Nations families through a triplex project.



Métis Settlements



Métis Settlements

In 2016, six families from Gift Lake Métis Settlement in Alberta moved into their new Habitat homes; a joint home dedication ceremony was attended by many from the community. Meanwhile, six more families at East Prairie moved into their Habitat homes in 2016 and 2017.

The new homes were a result of a successful partnership between Habitat Edmonton, the Métis Council of Alberta and Aboriginal Affairs Alberta.



The partners are planning to build 100 homes, providing affordable homeownership to many Métis families.



The project will enhance the housing management capacity of eight Métis settlements.



To date, 22 Habitat homes have been built over four settlements.



The partners are hard at work to follow through on the commitment to make homeownership a reality for many more families.



Duck Lake



Duck Lake

The town of Duck Lake, Saskatchewan is about 90 km north of Saskatoon. In 2016, Habitat Prince Albert began building two new homes in Duck Lake, including a 1,000 square-foot single-family home with two completed bedrooms and a partially finished basement for Shawn, Chantal and their young son.

The project also provided valuable hands-on experience to local high school students and Corrections Canada offenders.



Both homes were completed in the spring of 2017.



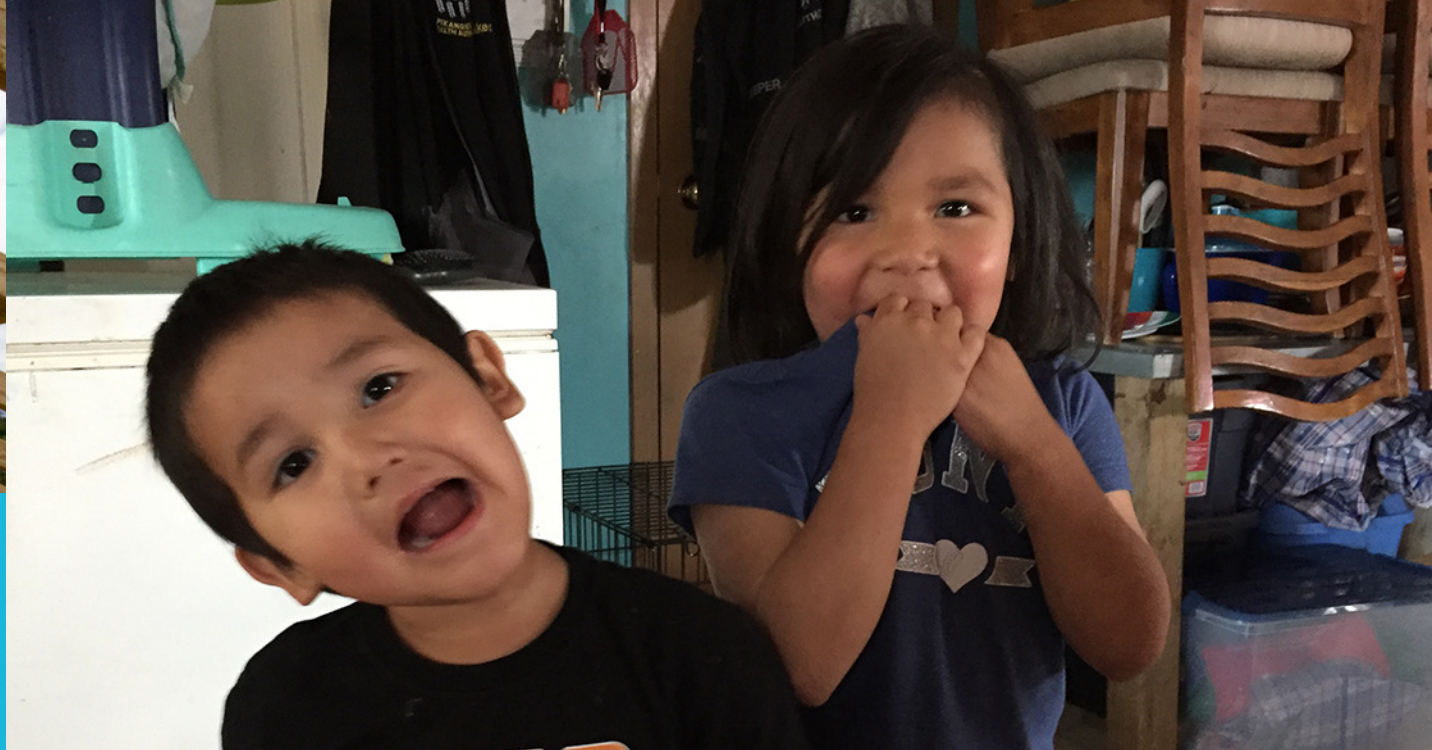
Nearly 40 high-school students from the community obtained school credits while participating in home-building activities.



Through a partnership with Corrections Canada, offenders enhanced their carpentry skills while building the Habitat homes.



Typically 12 to 16 offenders help build one home annually.



Pikangikum First Nation



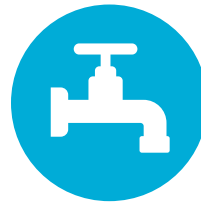
Pikangikum First Nation

Pikangikum First Nation in Northern Ontario has deplorable living conditions. Nearly 90 percent of homes in the community lack running water and adequate sanitation. The community has also lost many youth as a result of suicide.

Habitat Manitoba, in partnership with the Anglican Church of Canada's Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), and the Mennonite Central Committee of Ontario, worked together to develop plans to retrofit 10 homes.



These 10 homes have been provided with enhanced water and sanitation systems.



As a result, families now have running water, clean drinking water and are able to bathe in their homes.



The project also engaged community youth to help build their plumbing and carpentry skills.



Ready To Move



Ready To Move

In the summer of 2016, Habitat Manitoba partnered with the University of Winnipeg to rally the community around a common goal: building a home for an Indigenous family.

The new Habitat homeowners are Kyle, who is a member of Norway House Cree Nation, and Sasha, who is Sagkeeng.



Habitat Manitoba built a Ready To Move home on the front lawn of the university.



The house was then transported to Granville Avenue, adjacent to another Habitat home.



Kyle and Sasha worked hard to complete their 500 hours of sweat equity and have now moved into their new Habitat home with their children.



Happy Valley- Goose Bay



Happy Valley-Goose Bay

Tony and Patricia both have steady jobs at the Labrador Friendship Centre: she works in community outreach and he works in security. Still, they were spending far too much of their income on rent, forcing them to sacrifice other necessities.

Their new Habitat home is a dream come true for the Inuit couple: a stable and affordable place to call home and raise their family.



The family moved into their new three-bedroom home in January 2017.



Mortgage payments geared to income mean they can build financial equity over time.



Since moving in, Tony and Patricia's lives have been filled with hope for their future — and their children's future.



Indigenous Housing Program

What's Next?



As the program grows, the impact the Habitat affordable homeownership model can have on families is increasingly evident.



**We're more determined than ever
to build partnerships and homes
with Indigenous families in need of
a safe and decent place to live.**



By 2020, our goal is to help more Indigenous families become homeowners every year...



...while providing at least 200 Indigenous youth and women with skills and training opportunities every year.



And we'll continue to grow from there, expanding our impact as we respond to the Indigenous housing crisis.



Indigenous Housing Program

Contact Us

If your community or organization would like to partner with Habitat's Indigenous Housing Program, please contact:

Jayshree Thakar,
National Manager,
Indigenous Housing Program


(613) 523-2262

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The key to our success is partnership and collaboration. With your support we will help more Indigenous families build strength, stability and self-reliance.



A close-up photograph of a young child with dark hair, wearing a red patterned shirt, holding a black camera to their eye. The child is looking through the lens with a focused expression. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue.

“We believe that affordable homeownership is an important part of the answer to the severe housing crisis that many Indigenous communities are experiencing.”

– Mark Rodgers, President and CEO, Habitat For Humanity Canada

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