

Resistance

Resilience

Revolution

ReconciliACTION





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OUR MISSION

Lead and advance the housing rights for all Indigenous People living in British Columbia

OUR VISION

A globally recognized leader in Indigenous housing solutions across the housing spectrum

OUR VALUES

- **RESPONSIVE** – Valuing a responsive working culture, which is relationship-centered and collaborative in its approach
- **CAPACITY BUILDING** – Empowering our stakeholders with self-sufficiency and visionary practices
- **HOLISTIC** – Honoring diversity, partnership and growth
- **INNOVATIVE** – Striving for innovation through flexibility, entrepreneurship, and creativity (while honoring our experience)
- **RESPECT** – Respecting our stakeholders through trust, reliability and accountability
- **ADVOCACY** – Advancing the quality of housing for the collective interests of our communities

AHMA would like to acknowledge with gratitude the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation for hosting us on their traditional lands.

Indigenous housing gives a new lease on life

“ I honestly don't know where I'd be if hadn't found Aqanttanam. I was homeless and eight months pregnant when I heard about them from the homeless outreach program. Aqanttanam found me a place to stay and I moved in when my son was four days old. I lived in Claydon Villa for about two years and got into a relationship with another tenant who became abusive. They evicted him, found me a great new place, and paid for the moving truck. Aqanttanam has helped with some extra money during COVID, every Christmas we get gift cards, and they give us dairy queen treats for the kids. I'm in love with my home; it's a duplex with a backyard the kids can play in and I put in a vegetable garden. **I never worry about where I'm going to sleep or where my kids are going to be.** I have faith.”

Misty, tenant, Aqanttanam Housing Society

“ I'm a 60s scoop survivor and live down the street from the Aboriginal Mother Centre. They've been a great help to me and my husband and grandson since we've lived in the area, about nine years. I always call Sarah Thomas whenever I need something or someone to talk to, and she's always there for us. Before COVID, they had a lunch program for Elders; now they deliver meals. When the donation room was open, I used to drop in and pick up clothes and toys for my grandson, household stuff, bedding. **I love their services and don't know what I would do without them.** Everybody who works there is amazing; they've helped us make ends meet during COVID; they're helping me now with housing and connecting with a counsellor. I'd like to say thank you so much for being there for my family.”

Susie, neighbour, Aboriginal Mother Centre

“ Working here, I learned quickly that living in a shelter meant more than being homeless. We deal with addictions, mental health, and displacement of the homeless. I love learning their stories, their challenges, their weaknesses, what they want to achieve, what they have achieved. I learn to be more humble every day. I appreciate being alive. I am thankful for the little things. There may be only a few success stories, but we do have them. Don't take away their glimmer of hope. **We all need that chance to make our life better.**”

Cathy, Shelter Support Worker, Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society

“ Working at the Aboriginal shelter has impacted my life in a few ways. It gives me the opportunity to give back to the shelter that kept me safe when I was homeless. It allows me to **work with others experiencing homelessness and give them hope it's just a temporary situation.** And it reminds me of where I've been and how far I've come in the last five years.”

John, Shelter Support Worker, Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society

“ I was living in Invermere and relocated to Cranbrook in 2016 to care for two of my grandchildren. We were in a women's shelter at the time for the kids' safety. The foster parent to another grandchild was working at Aqanttanam and suggested I apply. Within a couple of months, I had a place in Claydon Villa. Later, they moved us to a duplex which is lovely, the rent is not too high, and maintenance has been absolutely fantastic. **This is the best place for my grandkids; they love it and don't ever want to move.** It's been awesome to work with Austin and the whole staff. If it wasn't for them, I don't know where I would have been. I'm very grateful.”

Sheri-Lynn, tenant, Aqanttanam Housing Society

“ I was not used to anything like the environment [at the Aboriginal Mother Centre] and, as soon as I got there, they really helped me with keeping busy, keeping my mind off the problems with my daughter's father. I met lots of different people and rolled with the good and bad times. I was there for a pretty long time and feel **it was a good experience for me, focusing on positivity and moving forward.** The process definitely helped me stabilize my life.”

Sharona, former tenant, Aboriginal Mother Centre

“ The house we lived in was being sold. We looked for another place for over a year and found nothing. Then I phoned Aqanttanam and explained our living situation and they listened, thankfully for our family. The difference is night and day. In the house we lived in before, the landlord never kept anything up; we had no kitchen window for four years, even though I offered to fix it. Now **we have a nice house with a fenced backyard that's great for our children.** We have three, our 15-year-old daughter Taylorlee, 10-year-old son Hayden, and our youngest son, five-year-old Nikoma. We have landlords who respect us, listen to us, and are there for us. The house is well kept and if anything comes up, they address it right away. My wife and I are so grateful to be part of Aqanttanam.”

Tony & Brittney, tenants, Aqanttanam Housing Society

Message from Our President & Chief Executive Officer

COVID-19 hit everyone one hard this year, including the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) and our members. One week we were following the path we had planned; the next, AHMA had to pivot how we do business. Fortunately, our service and housing providers managed to avoid outbreaks in their projects, and we commend our members' ability to adapt, in line with health recommendations.



Gary Wilson
President,
Board of Directors



Margaret Pfoh
Chief Executive
Officer

Leading in Unprecedented Times

"AHMA quickly shifted our approach to protect and support members, staff and directors during the COVID-19 pandemic," says Margaret Pfoh, AHMA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO). "COVID highlighted the value of strong leadership within AHMA and for our membership in a time of crisis. COVID clarified the circle of relationships and responsibilities. Leaders can rely on staff in normal times, but in crisis need to understand the impact of change and step up to meet the need for support. Not everybody can adapt or evolve at the same speed. My team needs to feel my support. Our members need to know we've got their backs and will give them the right information at the right time."

"When COVID-19 hit BC, our staff began working remotely from home and meeting online, like so many others across the country. At the same time, we quickly realized not all our members had the capacity or ability to work from home. Many are essential workers—emergency shelter, housing and support staff. Not everyone has the equipment and space to work remotely. Some communities don't have access to stable Wifi. We will continue to explore what support for members needs to look like in this new normal."

"The safety and health of frontline staff and tenants during the pandemic are top priority," adds Gary Wilson, President of the AHMA Board. "Our Board of Directors approved a \$1.8 million emergency fund to support members with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and resources to feed tenants, boost staffing, offer temporary shelter, and more. Then BC Housing recognized the need and stepped up to provide these additional funds, so the money didn't have to come from AHMA coffers."

"The timing of COVID meant we had to forgo holding our Spring Gathering in person with members this year. But we still want to engage, so planned online regional townhall gatherings, led by the directors in their respective regions. Our goal was to create a forum to listen to members and stay in touch with what's happening at the grassroots level."

Pandemic Highlighting Disparities

"This pandemic highlighted the disparities for vulnerable populations who typically rely on transition homes and shelters—Indigenous people, women and children fleeing violence, seniors, youth, the homeless," says Margaret. "Suddenly, women with abusive partners didn't feel safe anywhere, with COVID-19 forcing many abusers home from work. In addition, some abusers have been released from prison without corresponding community support. In rural communities, people are even more isolated, all of which exacerbates risk for women, especially where internet service is lacking."

"The increase in risk underscores the importance of AHMA advocating for government to step up support to meet the needs of vulnerable groups. We have seen through Truth and Reconciliation and residential school interviews that intergenerational trauma is a common cause of intergenerational abuse. Yet government has yet to recognize the connection with colonialism and provide funding to address these needs accordingly."

"We also reached out to support the Black Lives Matter movement here, in recognition of our common cause against racism and for justice."

Strengthening Governance

"With the support of our Nóčá?mat Leləm̓ Governance Committee, we had a strong list of candidates and were able to recruit two new directors, a year after establishing the inaugural arms length Board for AHMA," says Gary. "Committee support ensures member priorities remain central to our work, so people at the grassroots level know we will do our best to support them."

"Staying focused on our strategic priorities is top of mind for the Board, even as we adapt to doing business during a pandemic. Strengthening AHMA's relationship with the provincial government is a key direction from our membership to lobby for more housing and capacity building. We established a new Board to Board relationship with BC Housing this year. Our intent is for AHMA to be an equal partner with BC Housing as we move towards greater autonomy."

"The introduction of Bill 41: Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act was a milestone for the Province. The challenge will be to implement real change throughout government. We feel AHMA is in a strong position to help achieve that goal, particularly in the housing sector. No one can do this work alone, we need to come together to achieve our common objectives for ending homelessness, mitigating the risks of limited affordable housing, supporting the broader community of urban, rural and northern Indigenous people, and elevating the expertise and capacity of our members."

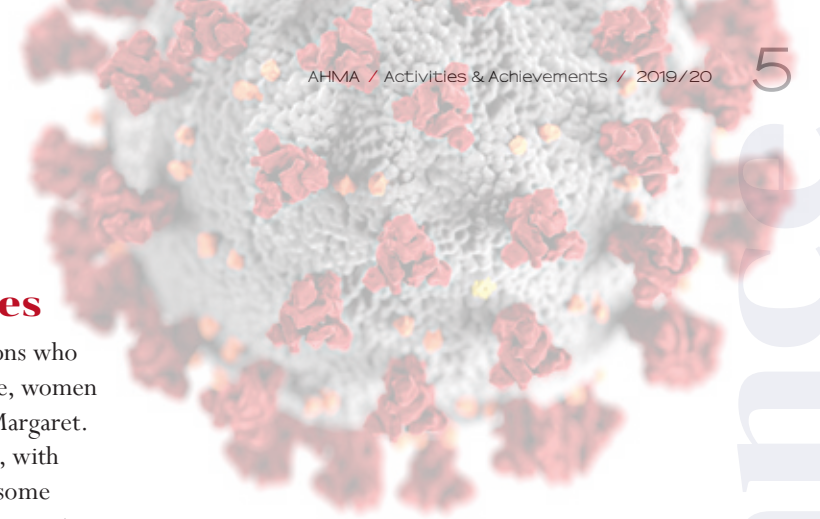
"In addition, the Board of Directors has established a new Government Relations Committee to investigate and advise the CEO and Board on potential new business endeavours."

Advocating for an Urban Indigenous Housing Strategy

"In Canada, up to 87%* of Indigenous households now live in urban, rural and northern parts of the country, not on First Nation lands," explains Margaret. "We've held more than 60 meetings with Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders across BC and the country—provincial and federal politicians, mayors, First Nation Chiefs and Councils, and our housing providers—to raise awareness of the unique needs of urban, rural and northern Indigenous people, and advocate for a national Urban Indigenous Housing Strategy."

"The federal government's current Indigenous housing strategy focuses on First Nations, Inuit and Métis, creating a huge gap for Indigenous people not living on reserve. That's why the Indigenous Housing Caucus of the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association (CHRA), which I sit on, proposed a For Indigenous, By Indigenous National Housing Strategy to eliminate the gap."

"Last year, Housing Minister Selina Robinson agreed to work with AHMA on designing a Relationship Protocol Agreement with the Province to ensure we are involved in initiatives that affect us. We submitted a draft on February 5, 2020. We believe the provincial government's recent rejection of such an agreement further marginalizes urban, rural and northern Indigenous people."



RECONCILIATION

“The pandemic exacerbated the already egregious disparity within Indigenous housing. To continue to ignore the dispossession of urban Indigenous peoples violates international human rights and is detrimental to the future of Canada.”

AHMA CEO Margaret Pfoh

“Reconciliation has become a trendy word for government that lacks action. The way to differentiate between reconciliation and reconciliACTION is weaving recognition of the interests of Indigenous people into day to day business. The inability of government to understand the fight of urban, rural and northern Indigenous people in 2020 shows why we need For Indigenous, By Indigenous. Reconciliation is just a word unless it is integrated into all we do in society.

“Right before COVID-19, I attended the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Housing and Infrastructure Conference to raise our profile. We explained our support for all that First Nations, Inuit and Métis do for their communities. But AHMA and our members house the 87% of their citizens who live away from home in safe, affordable housing and, collectively, we have over 1,000 years of expertise in meeting these needs. We are asking for their acknowledgement and support.”

Striving for Autonomy and Inclusion

“In the last year, we have seen a rise in innovative programs that support resilience in Indigenous Housing Fund (IHF) projects,” says Margaret. “Elders and youth housed together, with our Elders as wisdom keepers sharing a sense of traditional culture with youth who feel dispossessed. Sweat lodges, language classes, cooking classes, community gardens that contribute to food security. Our providers are showing us how to integrate nature and culture to support resilience among our people.

“Our theme this year—Resistance + Resilience + Revolution + ReconciliACTION — reflects the need for systemic change: For Indigenous, By Indigenous must be at the forefront of gaining government recognition of AHMA as a leader in urban, rural and northern housing to address the dispossession of Indigenous people.”

“The Board believes a Relationship Protocol Agreement with the Province is necessary. We are determined to see this priority come to fruition. We will revisit this quest with government when the time is right,” says Gary. “Our Board will review and adapt AHMA’s strategic priorities to the new normal of COVID-19, so members continue to feel hope and inspiration. We need to demonstrate to members we are their champions and will do our best to help them survive and thrive beyond the pandemic.”

Chet kw’emantumiyap
(In Squamish, “We are thankful to you all”)

Margaret Pfoh
Chief Executive
Officer

Gary Wilson
President,
Board of Directors

**A For Indigenous, By Indigenous National Housing Strategy: Addressing the Housing Needs of Indigenous Families and Individuals in the Urban, Rural and Northern Parts of Canada, Canadian Housing and Renewal Association, May 2018*

Revolution

Glass artwork by Terry Starr (Tlaxthamian Nation), courtesy of John Nieren Glass Studio. Photo by Angela Cho Design

Unpacking Bill 41

BC made history as the first province in Canada to pass legislation to implement the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

(UNDRIP) into BC law, in December 2019, which commits the Province to:

Consult with Indigenous groups when making decisions that may affect their Aboriginal rights



Pursue and achieve reconciliation



Adopt, implement and ensure consistency of British Columbia’s law with UNDRIP, specifically with respect to the Indigenous right to self-determination



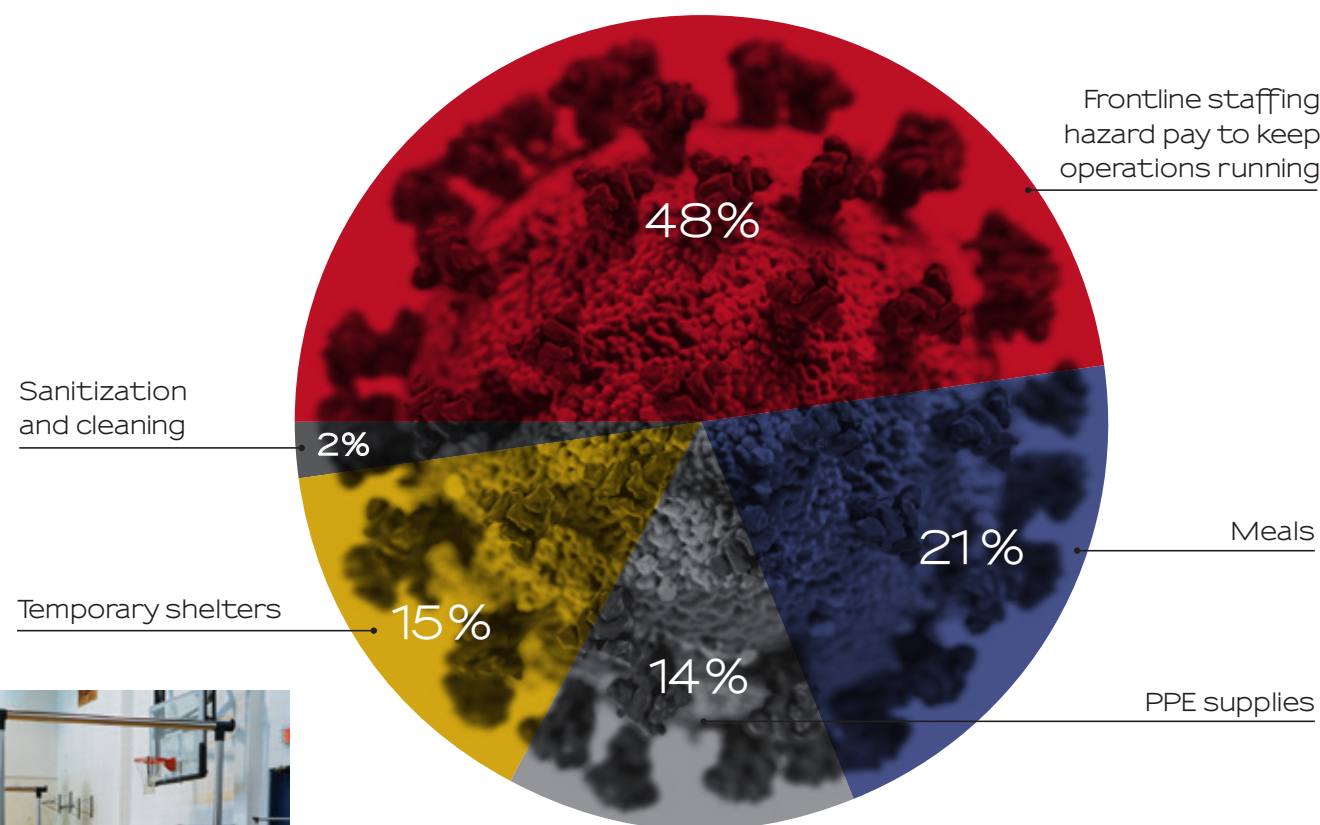
Address and close the gap on the significant disadvantages of, and inequalities facing, Indigenous people respecting Indigenous housing compared to other Canadian citizens

Protecting Indigenous Providers and People

AHMA's leadership to protect members, tenants, and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic included:

\$1.8 million emergency COVID-19 response fund

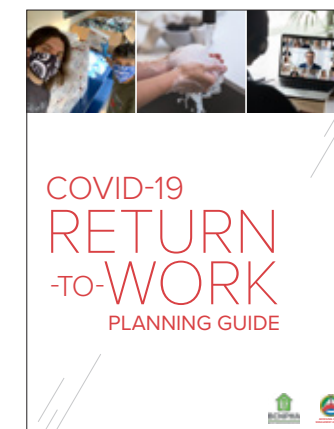
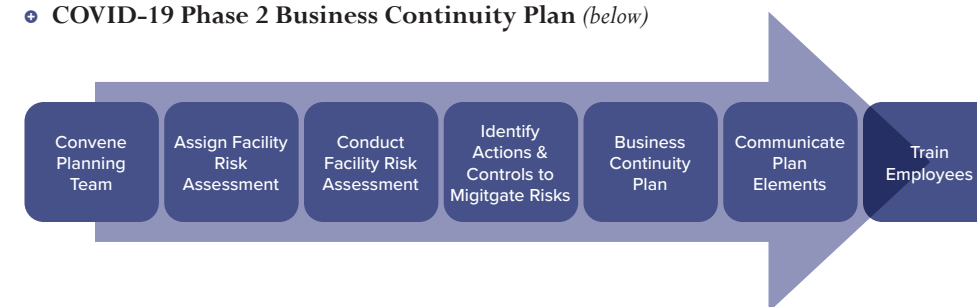
To support our members, approved by our Board of Directors, and funded by BC Housing:



Return to Work Guide

AHMA has taken the lead in developing return to work materials for our members, in partnership with BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA), to help members plan for Phase 2 of BC's Restart Plan:

- COVID-19 Return to Work Planning Guide (far right)
- COVID-19 Phase 2 Business Continuity Plan (below)



Online Regional Gatherings

Each director from our Board engaged with members in virtual regional gatherings to stay in touch, when the Spring Gathering had to be canceled due to COVID-19. We discussed two priority topics—AHMA's response to COVID-19 and the need for an Urban Indigenous Housing Strategy—as well as local concerns in each region, from more affordable housing and wraparound services for Indigenous youth, to connecting with Elders, food security, capacity to respond to the opioid crisis, and the resilience of Indigenous peoples. A common concern among members across the province was accumulating PPE stock to be prepared for a potential second wave of the pandemic.

Managing through Crisis webinar

AHMA hosted this webinar to guide housing partners in crisis leadership, as well as four COVID-19 webinars, in partnership with BCNPHA and BC Housing

Daily updates

On our website and social media, with information bulletins, posters, factsheets, resources and templates

Emergency PPE supplies

BC Housing set up an emergency PPE supply program. In addition to helping housing providers access emergency supplies from BC Housing, AHMA directly bulk purchased and distributed PPE supplies to our members within two weeks of the pandemic hitting BC:

- 2,000 non-medical masks with filters
- 1,000 N95 masks
- 680 gloves



Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society temporary COVID shelter



Asset Strategies Director David Silva (R) and his son, Cristiano, helped deliver PPE to AHMA members

"We helped get emergency PPE supplies to our members within two weeks of COVID-19 hitting, regardless of their remote locations, to ensure staff were protected going into units during the pandemic."

AHMA Asset Strategies Director **David Silva**



Indigenous Housing Highlights

Portfolio Planning Success

New development or re-development can be challenging. AHMA members can lean on our Asset Strategies team for help navigating the portfolio planning process. Portfolio Planning & Development Manager **Trevor Casey** supports members with strategic planning to optimize existing properties and develop a business case for new development opportunities.

A good example is the work Trevor did with Aqanttanaam Housing Society (AHS) in Cranbrook:

- Our team helped complete a condition assessment of Claydon Villa
- Results identified significant capital renewal needs over the long term due to the building's age
- Trevor worked closely with Aqanttanaam Executive Director **Austin Parisien** to complete a full property analysis of the building condition, resident demographics, unit types, size, location, community need, etc.
- The analysis gave Aqanttanaam a comprehensive strategy to advocate for redeveloping the property, which took Claydon Villa from being a long term liability to a potential new opportunity, and AHS has been gaining support from funders and the municipality

"Over the past two years, I have been involved in a new building project and ... the redevelopment of an existing property. Throughout these processes, I have been in contact with several of [AHMA's] team members, who have contributed to the recent success of our new building and ... provided a comprehensive report with recommendations and analysis that was instrumental in assisting me in making decisions as to how to proceed with redevelopment of the property.

"I want to thank everyone involved in the timely, professional way they performed their responsibilities and am grateful for their assistance."

AHS Executive Director **Austin Parisien**

Capital Planning Training

AHMA's Asset Planner software has become an integral part of our members' capital planning to maintain assets. To facilitate this work, **Lance Brommeland**, our Technical Advisor, and **Deanna Daniel**, our Data Analyst, created a training program for software users:

- Initial training tools include a Best Practices for Audits Guide and a gold standard audit sample
- We developed scope of work standards for procuring consulting services, when members did not have internal capacity
- We had Ameresco adjust the training materials to be more in tune with our members' needs

This work also had a spin off benefit—we created a document on best practices for site visits for AHMA staff, with a focus on providing quality reviews and personal safety protocols.

Initial training sessions with members, contractors and staff have gone well, and our team is making good progress in updating data for members' assets. We are conducting assessment training with members in each region to build internal capacity for self sufficiency.

New Energy Sustainability Service

AHMA launched this new service when we hired Energy & Sustainability Specialist **Patrick Caraher** in 2019 to identify energy improvement opportunities, analyze incentive funding, and provide technical support.

A good example is the new technology AHMA is spearheading with Vancouver Native Housing Society (VNHS), as a pilot project to enhance boiler efficiency. Our intent is to analyze the effectiveness, quality and benefits of the technology, before supporting its use more broadly with our housing providers.

Endotherm can be added to circulating boiler water to reduce surface tension of the system water, which improves heat transfer and is optimal for efficiency gains in an HVAC system. Buildings hit temperature set points quicker, and systems are required to run less frequently to maintain the temperature.

So far, the pilot has demonstrated natural gas savings of just under 20% for Vancouver Native Housing. (AHMA initiated this pilot in advance of Fortis creating an Endotherm rebate program, effective July 1. The incentive for the additive is \$200/gallon, which works out to a ~30% rebate.)

(We also helped VNHS expedite surveillance system upgrades at their Pendera project to protect residents and staff.)

Renewing Member Housing

New 2019/20 Capital Projects

\$17 million

9 projects

372 units

Ongoing Renewal Projects

\$25 million

19 projects

442 units



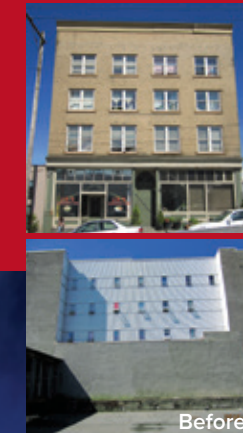
Regional Breakdown

REGION	PROJECTS
1 Northern BC	1 ongoing
2 Cariboo Chilcotin	5 ongoing
3 Thompson Okanagan	2 ongoing
4 Vancouver Island	2 new / 7 ongoing
5 Vancouver Coastal	4 new / 4 ongoing
6 Fraser Valley	3 new

Home Improvements

AHMA team members **Dave Garcia** and **Connie Mah** provided effective project management practices for major capital repairs in 28 projects located throughout BC, thus improving conditions for tenants and renewing the life of these properties.

Marilyn Mura – AHMA replaced windows and targeted cladding, made structural repairs, and remediated moisture issues at Marilyn Mura, a 32-unit heritage building—at 100 years old—that Vancouver Native Housing Society operates to provide SRO housing for women. The upgrades improved thermal comfort, reduced noise, and renewed the building’s life expectancy.



Family House – AHMA handled the asbestos abatement in this single detached family house operated by the Fort St. John Native Housing Society, then replaced the roof, cladding, windows, doors, plumbing and electrical systems, and flooring. We also installed additional insulation, LED lighting, and a high efficiency furnace with a heat recovery system. The results speak for themselves!



Urban Indigenous Housing Strategy

“The provincial and federal governments tend to view AHMA members as individual housing and service providers, rather than part of a unified umbrella group with collective power,” says **Nizar Laarif**, AHMA Director of Public Affairs. “That’s why AHMA has been gathering data on the collective socioeconomic impact of our members to use in developing an Urban Indigenous Housing Strategy for BC.

“We will assess the effectiveness of existing programs—many of which were created decades ago—to current circumstances. Our goal is to develop a strategy that identifies how to deliver adequate affordable housing for urban, rural and northern Indigenous peoples, provide the right support services to meet our communities’ needs, and end homelessness. We’ll use the Urban Indigenous Housing Plan just developed by the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association as inspiration.

“We hope to release our For Indigenous, By Indigenous housing strategy at the BCNPHA Housing Central Conference in December 2020, which will be a virtual gathering this year.”

Engaging With Partners

We continue to advance AHMA's presence and influence with important community connections and partnerships at all levels:

Canadian Housing and Renewal Association – AHMA CEO

Margaret Pfoh remains on the CHRA Board of Directors and sits on the CHRA Indigenous Caucus to ensure Indigenous housing providers have a national presence.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation – We are connecting with CMHC President & CEO Evan Siddal, who favours the development of an Indigenous Housing Strategy to parallel the National Housing Strategy.

Collaborative Housing Research Network – AHMA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Collaborative Housing Research Network, established by the University of BC and funded by CMHC, to lobby for a balanced supply of housing, mainly through the National Housing Strategy, and to ensure all network research has an Indigenous component.

Assembly of First Nations –

Margaret has connected with Regional AFN Chief Terry Teegee on the AFN's Housing and Infrastructure Council. And **Cliff Grant**, our Manager of Indigenous Strategic Relations, is working with AFN Senior Policy Advisor for Housing and Infrastructure Dan Gaspe. AFN's jurisdiction is on-reserve housing, but with 87% of our people living off reserve, AFN supports the increasing need for urban Indigenous housing.

Municipal and Council governments –

Cliff has also been meeting with mayors and First Nation Chiefs and Councils across BC to help build relationships, facilitate the sharing of housing strategies for mutual benefit, push for the inclusion of Indigenous housing in municipal plans, and advocate for the provision of municipal land for affordable Indigenous housing projects:

- The Hesquiaht Nation was successful in acquiring urban land for Indigenous development
- Cliff discussed how nations support citizens living in BC municipalities with Takla, Musqueam, Wetsuweten, Lytton, Lheidli T'enneh, Kitamaat, Kitsumkalum, Kitselas, Lax Kw'laams, Hazelton, Witset and Kwikwilem Nations
- He also met with mayors from Prince George, Terrace, Prince Rupert, Smithers, Hazelton, Quesnel, Williams Lake, Abbotsford, Vancouver, Port Alberni, Tofino and Nanaimo to discuss urban Indigenous housing needs and strategies

"These relationships build awareness of our members' contributions in their respective municipalities, which can go unnoticed by the broader community," says Cliff. "We want to reassure First Nation Chiefs and communities, who may not be aware of what our members do, that their people are well taken care of by AHMA members when living away from home."

BC Non-Profit Housing Association –

AHMA co-presents the annual BCNPHA Housing Central Conference with BCNPHA and the Co-operative Housing Federation of BC, and developed COVID-19 materials for housing providers in partnership with BCNPHA.

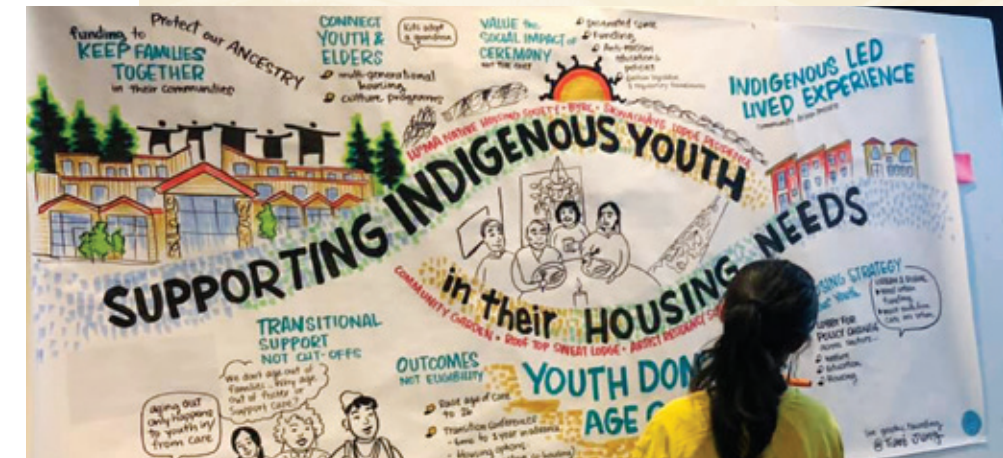
Provincial government connections –

Margaret has also built AHMA's political connections, in meetings that extend beyond housing to include the social determinants of health and the opioid crisis:

- Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Judy Darcy regarding the opioid crisis
- Minister of Housing Selina Robinson to discuss the Relationship Protocol Agreement
- Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training Melanie Mark to support at-risk Indigenous youth aging out of care
- Minister of Children and Family Development Katrine Conroy
- Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Scott Fraser
- Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction Shane Simpson
- Plus regular meetings with BC Housing CEO Shayne Ramsay continue to enhance inclusion, transparency and communication in our relationship



AHMA CEO Margaret Pfoh with Australian Elder Helen Fejo-frith at the National Housing Conference in Darwin Australia, where Margaret gave the International Keynote Address



UN Special Rapporteur on Housing –

Trevor Casey was a part of a special panel on July 19, 2019, with Leilani Farha, UN Special Rapporteur on Housing. The panel followed the showing of the documentary PUSH, which follows Farha, a prominent figure in the push for housing as a human right. This led to an opportunity to meet with the Ad Hoc Coalition that came together under Leilani Farha, through the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, where we shared information on AHMA's role and structure and the potential translation of AHMA onto a national platform.



Above: Indigenous Caucus work at the BCNPHA Housing Central conference

AHMA 2019 AGM L-R: Vancouver Native Housing Society CEO David Eddy, and Wachiy Friendship Centre Director of Homeless & Housing Programs Roger Kishi

Below: Coalition of Indigenous housing leaders L-R: Executive Director of Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services Justin Marchand, Executive Director of the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres Sylvia Maracle, AHMA CEO Margaret Pfoh, Global Director, The Shift, and former UN Special Rapporteur on Housing Leilani Farha, Director of Research at The Shift Kaitlin Schwan, Director of Communications at The Shift Haseena Manek, and AHMA Communications Manager Laurie Brownrigg



L-R: AHMA Executive Assistant & Office Coordinator Emma Owen, Portfolio Manager Mae Flanders, and Manager of Indigenous Strategic Relations Cliff Grant at the 2019 Union of BC Municipalities conference





“AHMA members can lean on us for help navigating the life cycle of their housing portfolio. We work together to gauge the current situation and strategize a plan to deliver the best housing for the community they serve.”

Director of Asset Strategies **David Silva**

Ready, Set, Operate

We are working with our partners at BC Housing and BCNPHA to create a “Ready, Set, Operate” education program, which is focused on Indigenous providers, but could be used for any group that’s gone through major change—establishing a new board or staffing structure, for instance—so they understand the 360 degrees of housing, from asset strategies to human resources, tenant relations and governance.

Good Governance Best Practices

We have updated our Board Manual and policies to be in line with our new Constitution and Bylaws. We developed a new board performance evaluation process for the entire board, each officer and each director, under the oversight of the Nóćá?mat Lelañ Committee.

As a good business practice, we’re working on an AHMA Risk Ledger that outlines all risks to AHMA’s operations, reputation and financial position, with a mitigation strategy and monitoring mechanism for each risk.

We are also updating the Operations Policy Manual to sync with AHMA’s new structure, since we have changed our governance model and expanded the scope of operations.

Creating a New Operating Agreement

We are creating a new AHMA operating agreement to include Indigenous values and replace the BC Housing agreements for Urban Native projects extended to 2028.

In addition, we’re working to have the Indigenous Housing Fund agreement directly under AHMA’s name instead of BC Housing, relax some of the restrictions under the original Urban Native agreements, and set the foundation to be better prepared for mortgage expiry.

L-R: Kelowna Indigenous Housing Society Executive Director Tina La Roche, AHMA CEO Margaret Pfoh, and Housing Minister Selena Robinson at a groundbreaking event for a new 17-unit affordable housing project on Westbank First Nation land

“AHMA members are part of a unified umbrella group with collective power.”

AHMA Director of Public Affairs **Nizar Laarif**

New Indigenous Housing

AHMA members have more than 2,000 new units in various stages of development—some are still in proposal, but many have moved to preliminary or final approval, some are under construction, and over 100 units are completed and occupied.

These units are funded through different programs like the Indigenous Housing Fund, Provincial Investment in Affordable Housing, Social Infrastructure Fund, Investment in Housing Innovation, and Community Housing Fund.

*New 50-townhouse project to be built in Prince George
L-R: AHMA Treasurer Trevor Morrison, Aboriginal Housing Society of Prince George Executive Director Christos Vardacostas, and AHMA Manager of Indigenous Strategic Relations Cliff Grant*



Achieving Synergies

We tell the success stories of three Indigenous housing and service providers in this year's report—the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society, Aqanttanam Housing Society, and Aboriginal Mother Centre Society. These members, like all AHMA providers, care passionately about creating safe spaces, affordable housing, and supportive services to empower tenants' success.

Artwork by Susan Peint (Coast Salish), courtesy of Eagle Spirit Gallery, photo by Angella Chen Design



Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society

“The Friendship Centre is a hub for Indigenous people coming from their home nations. We’re often the first place people stop when they arrive in the city,” says **Kaila Wong**, Program Administrator at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society (VAFCS). “We provide programs in health, social services, culture, education, recreation, and help people access housing. The centre is a safe environment for urban Indigenous people of all ages and genders to maintain their cultural ties and values.”

Housing & Support Services

Established in 1963, the centre’s mandate is to meet the needs of Indigenous people making a transition to the urban community. VAFCS delivers housing and more than 25 programs and services:

Housing portfolio – VAFCS operates an Aboriginal shelter and transitional housing:

- **201 Shelter** – This 100-bed shelter is open to Indigenous people of all cultures, 19 years and older, with separate areas for males and females. Clients receive a blanket, mat and two tickets, one for a hot dinner and one for a breakfast sandwich/snack in the morning.
- **Skeena House** – VAFCS provides transitional housing for 60 tenants, along with onsite support, nutritional assistance, training and employment opportunities, holistic workshops and cultural activities.
- **New construction** – We’re excited about building a new major project next year, with 80 shelter beds for individuals experiencing homelessness. In addition, we will have 163 units—25 homes for those ready to move to more independent living, 85 new rental homes for low income families and individuals, and 53 new market rental homes—in partnership with BC Housing and the City of Vancouver. Located on East Hastings, a major urban artery, this new landmark building will be a gateway to the city for urban Indigenous peoples.
- **New Friendship Centre** – In coming years, VAFCS will have a new centre in the same location, when we redevelop and build up. The building will have a housing project for low income families and Elders and a community centre. Our new centre will be a one-stop shop with health services, retail, and cultural needs under one roof.

“We connect the urban Aboriginal population with Indigenous culture and provide a sense of belonging.”

VAFCS Program Administrator
Kaila Wong (below)





Adapting to COVID-19 – The centre is closed at present, but all essential services continue. For example, we modified our food security program, by shifting from a weekly food bank and luncheons for Elders to Meals on Wheels, with over 300 meals delivered to Elders’ homes. We started a meal hamper program to reach out to the youth and children who usually come to our afterschool program and backpack days. The hampers include fresh and canned foods, household products and PPE equipment.

During the pandemic, some in-person programs are on hold, but we look forward to reinstating these connections when possible:

- **Elders’ Wisdom** – We usually provide space for Elders to apply traditional practices in a social environment, with sessions for Residential School Survivors, a community garden at UBC, a sewing club, health workshops and services, and annual social gatherings.
- **Recreation program** – VAFCS has a gym and youth friendly room with kitchen, library, computer lab, games, lounge, arts and crafts, and TV to give urban Indigenous youth a positive, supportive, and healthy environment to develop skills, self-esteem, physical wellness and cultural awareness.
- **Friendship Family Place** – A place for families to come together to have fun, engage in activities, and learn new life skills, with drop-in services for parents with children five and younger.
- **Reaching Home “Urban Aboriginal Navigation Team”** – Connects Indigenous people to employment skills and training opportunities, educational resources, affordable food/clothing/furniture sources, healthy lifestyle support services, cultural activities, and community housing support services.

Social enterprises – The centre also operates two social enterprises, Friendship Catering with diverse, delicious menus, and Klatawa Bike Shop, which opened last year. Klatawa is a Chinook word that means to travel. VAFCS has delivered two bike mechanic training programs in the shop, one foundational, the other advanced. The 12 grads have all been hired in the bike industry since taking the course.

In addition, we encourage shelter residents, who often use bikes as their only means of transportation, to volunteer at the bike shop to work on their own and customer bikes.

VAFCS Shelter Manager Brian Francis



Making a Difference

“We are able to enrich and empower urban Indigenous people through our socioeconomic and cultural supports,” says Kaila. “We understand many individuals depend on our services, so VAFCS staff share a sense of pride and commitment to our own people, while offering opportunities many may not have been afforded before. We are motivated by supporting our community and hope to be a bridge for people to lead healthier and more fulfilling lives.”

Working with AHMA

“AHMA has been so supportive of our centre operations, not just the shelter, but all our programs and services. We have a strong relationship and are very appreciative of our partnership.”

Traditional territory recognition

Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society resides on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

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 Left column, from top: Earth Day planting trees; drum making; women preparing salmon.
 Right column, from top: bike shop; weekly west coast night; mural thank you; children and youth basketball camp.



Aqanttanam Housing Society

“ʔaǰam (St. Mary’s) First Nation set up Aqanttanam Housing Society (AHS) in July 1992 to address limited housing options for members who wanted to live in Cranbrook, 10 km from the reserve,” says AHS Executive Director **Austin Parisien**. “AHS bought 29 houses and duplexes over the next three years.”

Housing & Support Services

“Our goal is to provide clean, safe affordable housing, but demand in Cranbrook has increased, with low vacancy rates. It’s difficult for anyone to find suitable housing, let alone families and individuals with lower incomes. Aqanttanam’s waitlist has steadily increased in the past two years; we recently reached about 200 applications and 70% are Indigenous. The good news is we’re growing by 70% this year.”

Housing portfolio – AHS now operates 56 rental units in Cranbrook and is building 39 more:

- **Houses** – Aqanttanam owns 16 houses and 10 duplexes purchased in 1992-94 to support people of Indigenous ancestry with lower incomes.
- **Hillcrest Heights** – In March 2007, AHS purchased a 12-unit apartment building with 10 two-bedroom and two one-bedroom units, partially subsidized for low income families and individuals who were homeless or at high risk of becoming homeless.
- **Claydon Villa** – In May 2008, we bought an 18-unit complex of three-bedroom townhouses to provide stable housing for low income families who were homeless or at high risk of becoming homeless.
- **Chief Agnes McCoy Centre** – see inset on right (p.23).

Supporting tenants – AHS’ tenant relation officers provide one-on-one consultation to enable all our tenants to identify needs and set goals. We refer tenants to education, employment, child and family, financial, or counselling services, as needed. We check in regularly to make sure people are safe and find out if they need help accessing community supports. AHS will expand these services when the new building opens late this year.

“We believe people deserve a second chance and try to find ways we can help them improve their lives.”

Executive Director **Austin Parisien**

Making a Difference

“We serve people who really have no place to turn and have difficulty finding a home, perhaps due to past tenancy issues, a criminal record, or substance use,” explains Austin. “We believe people deserve a second chance and try to find ways we can help them improve their lives.”

“We provide a safe, clean affordable place to live where people can bring their families, start again with education or a job, find safety if leaving an abusive situation, or stabilize their lives after going through detox.”

“Cranbrook has limited community resources, so we reach out to transition houses, housing outreach programs,

child and family services, and other agencies to find out who needs support. Aqanttanam takes in a lot of women who need housing to reunite with their children after fleeing abuse or overcoming substance use, and we concentrate on helping them get a fresh start. We try to protect women coming from an abusive situation, and help tenants find work and get back into the community.”

“Success for us is when someone graduates from our housing to live in market rental housing, because they found a job and got their life back on track. We have a lot of grads. We’re always sad to see them go, but also happy they’ve turned things around and will be okay again.”

Working with AHMA

“Aqanttanam has been a member since AHMA was created. We find AHMA staff professional, knowledgeable, and always ready to help us find solutions to our unique issues; they go out of their way to help us in every way possible, from capital renovations to asset planning.”

“We want to redevelop Claydon Villa and increase the property from 18 to 40 units. AHMA staff responded immediately to my request and gave us a comprehensive analysis with meaningful recommendations for redoing the building. I look forward to our gatherings and will continue to develop our relationships with AHMA staff.”

Traditional territory recognition Aqanttanam Housing Society resides on the unceded traditional territories of the Ktunaxa Nation, which has four members—Akisqnuq First Nation in Windermere, Yaqaan Nukiy First Nation in Creston, ʔaǰam First Nation in Cranbrook, and Tobacco Plains Indian Band in Grasmere.

Chief Agnes McCoy Centre – On December 1, 2020, we will open our newest development, a 39-unit apartment building currently under construction, with 24 one-bedroom, 12 two-bedroom, and three three-bedroom units for low income individuals and families, through the Indigenous Housing Fund. Another building on the property is home to the Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services Society’s Early Years Program and House of Hope Church.



AHS house



Hillcrest Heights



Claydon Villa



"So many systemic barriers are set up to make people fail and this is a program that's enabling them to succeed. I really love it."

AMCS Executive Director **Maura Gowans**



Aboriginal Mother Centre Society

"The Aboriginal Mother Centre Society (AMCS) is a place where Aboriginal mothers who are facing homelessness, are at risk of losing their children, or want support to regain their children can come," says **Maura Gowans**, AMCS Executive Director (ED). "We provide cultural and wraparound supports onsite to support women on their healing journey, so they are able to live independently and successfully when they leave here. Women can rebuild their sense of self-worth and identity here to create a better future for themselves and their children, a place where they can be together as a family."

Housing & Support Services

A large number of children are still in care of the Ministry of Children and Family Development or Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services. In 2002, AMCS began to address the needs of Indigenous mothers who were falling through the cracks.

Housing portfolio – AMCS is located in East Vancouver and provides safe housing and support:

- **Transformational Housing Program** – Our transitional housing offers a safe haven, with 16 newly renovated suites for mothers and children under the age of nine, who are at risk of homelessness or child welfare intervention in Vancouver.
- **Indigenous-centred support** – We also give women and children an opportunity for healing and family reconnection, while living in a healthy, self-sustaining village. AMCS delivers onsite counselling, advocacy, education, training, and social support, using a traditional Indigenous knowledge-centered approach to spiritual, physical and emotional health.

Outreach Program – AMCS supports men, women, and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with wraparound services to find and sustain housing within the community.

Licensed Daycare – We have a 25-space daycare for children ages three to five that focuses on Indigenous culture, language, and traditions, staffed by experienced Early Childhood Educators.

Adapting to COVID-19 – We usually host an Elders' luncheon every Thursday and nutritious meals from our Community Kitchen Monday to Friday, both now on hold due to COVID-19. Since the pandemic happened, we have shifted our support to the frontlines of the Downtown Eastside, feeding 200-400 people every day, helping vulnerable populations find housing, offering tents, and providing cultural support. We've also been taking care of our Elders with weekly food deliveries.

Making a Difference

"We help Indigenous people overcome barriers such as homelessness, substance use, mental health issues, discrimination, and systemic racism and oppression," explains Maura. "We address historical traumas and support women with cultural, educational and preventive measures to keep families together."

"I've worked with women and children fleeing abuse in all sorts of capacities for 20 years and this is the first time I can be myself as an Indigenous woman. We're making a difference here: we're helping people coming from prison reintegrate into the community and helping women at risk of losing their children to stay together. So many systemic barriers are set up to make people fail and this is a program that's enabling them to succeed. I really love it."

Working with AHMA

"We are grateful for our relationship with AHMA. As an Indigenous led agency, AHMA staff provide us with the culturally relevant support our community needs."

Traditional territory recognition

We have the honor and privilege of working on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations, one that we do not take lightly and are committed to honoring them through our work.



Left column, from top: AMCS Homeless Outreach team prepares meals; ED Maura Thomas and Director of Operations Sarah Thomas blanket kitchen staff Shirley Longpre; AMC staff deliver meals in DTES

Right column, from top: homeless outreach supplies; Cloud Littlepoplar, a baby in the AMCS shelter; Sofia Mitchell led the annual Women's Memorial March with ribbon skirts made at AMCS; bedroom at AMC shelter; AMC weekly food hamper for Elders

Fighting for Justice

Mae Flanders and Robin Raweater's powerful stories illustrate how support can make a difference and help turn intergenerational trauma around.



Mae Flanders

"I had a dream once; I grew up with my family," says Mae. "I had a dream it was just my mom, brother, sister and me, and we never left each other's side. I was never taken away by the ministry and placed in so many foster homes, something a child should ever experience. Telling my story over and over to social workers, it became a joke because of the high turnovers. Eventually I stopped telling my story, I felt no one cared."

"I wish my sister never died and we had never gone through such a terrible loss that pushed my Mom through her mental breaking point. During this tragic time, my brother and I were split up and went to stay with family for a bit. I thought this was the dark point, but then I was abused and, instead of being able to tell my mom, I kept this inside, as I did not want to bring more hurt to her."

Then Mae's mom was reported to the ministry. Mae and her brother were split up. He went to one foster family and was with them for 13 years, until he was 18. She lived with them a short time. Then Mae felt fortunate to end up with her best friend's family, what she called her second family, who had been there for her since she was four years old. Sadly, Mae and her brother grew apart and no longer talk to each other. But she wonders what he is doing and hopes he is happy.

"I hope we can be brother and sister again one day."

Mae watched aunts, an uncle, and many cousins fall to the despair of alcohol and drugs. Most died too young or are in and out of the prison

system. "It's sad to say, but all this loss has sort of become the norm for us."

"I would later learn there was a connection to all this, residential school. I always wondered why I had more hardship than most of my friends who were non-Indigenous. They were always with their parents in a big happy family and could just be kids."

"No one in my family talked about residential school, until I was older and started asking questions. I asked my gran but all she would say was that she was not treated as badly as others, which she was grateful for. My gran has had a hard life, she experienced severe abuse, and too much loss in one lifetime. Her husband and most of her children have passed on way too young. Now that I am a mom, I cannot imagine being as strong as gran is. It saddens me to think what our families, culture and roots have gone through, and in most cases, are still going through."

"I have a dream that we can all reconnect as a community to learn the way of Indigenous peoples, learn from our Elders, give back to our communities, teach our children our culture, stories, and songs again. Because all this hardship our people went through should not be for nothing, we need to learn from it and learn to stand up for one another, to support one another."

Mae Flanders is Mamalilikulla First Nation and a Portfolio Manager with AHMA.

**Just last year, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) abolished its birth notice protocol, in place from the 1950s to 2019, where hospitals notified the ministry when an Indigenous child was born.*

Robin Raweater

"I lost my kids to foster care about four years ago," says Robin. "My infant son died from pneumonia and bronchitis. I took him to the hospital, explained we had mould in the house, and asked for an x-ray. I feel, as an Indigenous person, hospital staff did not believe me. They said, 'we don't do x-rays on infants' and sent us home. My son died 20 days later."

Social workers accused Robin of being intoxicated, rolling over and smothering her son, despite the fact she was not using drugs or alcohol. They apprehended her other three children.

She began a new relationship and got pregnant, but her partner became abusive and she had to flee. The YWCA took Robin in and she was able to get her kids back, as the coroner's report had not yet been filed, and gave birth to Grace in Children's Hospital.

At the time, Robin's teenage daughter made a false accusation against her, which she later recanted. This time social workers apprehended three and a half-month-old Grace while she was breastfeeding and Robin's other kids.

Robin moved around for a while, living in the Asia Hotel on Pender Street above a night club for six months to avoid being homeless or in a shelter, then staying with relatives, then another hotel.

"I started to hang around the women's centre in the Downtown Eastside. The Elders saw I was determined to stand up for my rights and the rights of my children, and advised me to sit on the Board of Directors at the centre. I'd never done anything like that, but the Elders promised to guide me."

"During the time my kids were in foster care, I felt the apprehension was unjust and not related to drugs or alcohol. Yes, I needed parenting support. My

mom is a residential school survivor and I grew up partly in foster care, but there was no abuse, neglect or substance use with my children.

"Two of my kids were put in a group home, where my daughter was excessively restrained on a regular basis. Since then, she's suffered from seizures. I decided to take my complaint to the Human Rights Tribunal for wrongful removal and treatment of my family, accusing me of the death of my infant son."

Robin succeeded in overturning the case against her; the MCFD* child protection file is now closed. Elder Penny Kerrigan, an original cofounder of the Aboriginal Mother Centre, supported Robin during the hearing. Robin was able to get her children back with help from the centre.

"The social workers said the only way to get my kids back was to go into the centre. I didn't want to trust the system. I thought they just wanted to watch my parenting to take my kids again. But I had nothing to lose and decided to go in with an open, positive mind and good thoughts."

"I like the idea of providing a safe space where mothers can actually feel confident about parenting. The programs are very informative and staff are amazing, every single one of them. It really gave me hope, when I had none, because child and family services were going for continuing custody of my kids. It helped me believe in good people when I felt the world was against me."

"I stayed there from June 2019 to March 1st, 2020. My mom had talked to her landlord and, when a two-bedroom was available, it was offered to me. Mother Centre staff are still there for me, they contact me, ask if I need anything. I would eventually like to go back and help support that organization, when I get better settled."



Photo: Jason Brown

Robin has started a support group for parents facing similar discrimination dealing with child welfare. She is passionate about supporting other Indigenous parents because she does not want her daughters or other Indigenous children to face racism and apprehension of their kids when they become parents; she wants to stop this practice.

"I started the support group to help keep families together. We just launched a web page to help parents navigate the child support system. I can't turn my back on parents who are still suffering. I got this far and need to share the knowledge, let people know there is light at the end of the tunnel, don't give up."

Robin Raweater co-chairs the Board of Directors for the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre. She is Blackfoot from the Siksika Nation and an activist for social justice.



Nóćwa?mat Leləm Committee Listening to Members' Voices

By Nóća?mat Leləm Committee Chair **Rosanna McGregor**

Our job is to provide relevant information that enables the Board of Directors to make the best decisions for AHMA. We are helping the Board engage at a higher level politically, a focus on creating an Urban Aboriginal Housing Strategy, which is crucial for all of us as AHMA members.

We do not want to compete with First Nations for housing support; we want to partner and work toward common goals to address housing needs for Indigenous peoples on and off reserve.

As members, we continue to have input to the CHRA Indigenous caucus at the federal level. The other way for AHMA to have input comes from our Board of Directors to the Assembly of First Nations, CHRA and CMHC. Federal agencies need to know about AHMA's role, and we need to work together to achieve our goals.

We are concerned about sustaining the momentum of the Indigenous Housing Fund, since BC Housing put the 2020 IHF on hold with the onset of COVID-19. The IHF is even more important during this pandemic. For example, our shelters are dorm style. We were hoping to adapt the space to create small individual rooms so people can socially distance in an emergency shelter setting, through the IHF. Consequently, we will advocate for reinstating the IHF to support purpose-built housing that recognizes current realities.

AHMA was right there for us when they knew we would struggle under COVID. People were told to stay home, but that's not an option for staff working at a shelter. As members, we received hazard pay from AHMA for frontline workers, recognizing the health risk to our staff.

Recently, we've been doing virtual regional meetings, which are an amazing opportunity to provide feedback. AHMA really understands our needs and advocates for us.

Nóća?mat Leləm Committee members also select and recommend a slate of candidates to the Board of Directors, based on a matrix of skill sets each will bring to the Board to attain the best governance composition for AHMA, from housing to business management, finance, and economic development.



Three Corporate AHMA members sit on the committee and are elected annually at the AGM.

Nóća?mat Leləm Members (Clockwise):

Rosanna McGregor
Committee Chair
(Cariboo Friendship Society)

Roger Kishi
(Wachiy Friendship Centre Society)

Margaret Pfoh
Exofficio (AHMA CEO)

Luanne Ruotsalainen
(Dakelh & Quesnel Community Housing Society)

Meet Our Team

We are grateful to our Board of Directors and Náča?mat Leləm Committee members for the expertise they bring to AHMA. Toyuxsiim, thank you for your contributions and commitment to meeting our communities' needs through your advocacy and good governance.

Board of Directors

- Gary Wilson** President (Region 4)
- Blake Scott** Vice President (Region 5)
- Trevor Morrison** Treasurer (Region 6)
- Jamie Pond** Secretary (Region 2)
- John Johansen** Director (Region 1)
- Mike Daigle** Director (Region 3)
- Annette Morgan** BC Housing Representative

See regions on map on p. 12



AHMA Staff Team

- Margaret Pfoh**, Chief Executive Officer (Gitga'at First Nation)
- David Silva**, Director of Asset Strategies
- Lloyd Taghavi**, Chief Financial Officer
- Nizar Laarif**, Director of Public Affairs
- Cliff Grant**, Manager of Indigenous Strategic Relations (Haisla Nation)
- Sandra Eatmon**, Portfolio Manager & Indigenous Cultural Advisor (Métis Nation)
- Alexandra Christian**, Senior Portfolio Manager
- Mae Flanders**, Portfolio Manager (Mamalilikulla First Nations)
- Debra Webber**, Portfolio Manager (Squamish Nation)
- Katrina Cote**, Portfolio Manager (Gitksan Nation)
- David Garcia**, Project Manager
- Lance Brommeland**, Technical Service Advisor
- Patrick Caraher**, Energy and Sustainability Specialist
- Deanna Daniel**, Asset Data Analyst (St'at'imc Nation)
- Trevor Casey**, Portfolio Planning & Development Specialist (Haida Nation)
- Laurie Brownrigg**, Communications Manager
- Sue Lee**, Financial Services Specialist
- Cindy Williams**, Financial Client Services
- Connie Mah**, Project Coordinator
- Emma Owen**, Executive Assistant & Office Coordinator (Musqueam Nation)
- Alicia Leask**, Office Administrator (Squamish Nation)

Photo by Angèle Chan Design



"We are working to elevate awareness of AHMA and our members' socioeconomic contributions to local communities and the province as a whole."

AHMA President **Gary Wilson**

AHMA

Financial Report

Year ended
March 31, 2020

Revenues:

BC Housing grants	\$43,462,917
Interest	\$299,195
Proceeds from sale of capital assets (RNH)	\$289,321
Tenant rents	\$174,644
Transfer from deferred revenue	\$130,674

\$44,356,751 TOTAL

Expenditures:

Subsidy payments	\$40,425,708
Salaries and benefits	\$2,053,818
Depreciation	\$228,637
Conferences and gatherings	\$228,079
Rent	\$214,388
Public relations	\$202,324
Staff travel	\$167,682
IT Consultants	\$143,279
Mortgage payout (RNH)	\$108,477
Professional fees	\$107,851
Office	\$86,767
Exterior maintenance	\$74,562
Property taxes	\$36,079
Insurance	\$34,854
Utilities	\$21,839
Telephone	\$17,987
Professional fees subsidy	\$13,900
Contracted services	\$8,941
Management fees	\$4,753
Advertising	\$3,480
Professional development	\$2,741
Bank charges and interest	\$1,569

\$44,187,715 TOTAL

Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	\$169,036
Disposition of RNH capital assets at cost	(\$274,803)

(\$105,767)

TOTAL (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES

Revenues 2018/19 to 2019/20

\$41,257,440 to \$44,187,715 = **6.5% ▲**

Summary of Financial Statements

	2020	2019
ASSETS		
Cash	\$14,049,338	\$11,760,073
Capital Assets	\$2,867,314	\$3,285,726
Other	\$499,148	\$2,824,370
	\$17,415,800	\$17,870,169
LIABILITIES		
	\$12,558,232	\$12,906,834
NET ASSETS		
Operating	\$1,990,254	\$1,677,609
Capital Assets	\$2,867,314	\$3,285,726
	\$4,857,568	\$4,963,335
CHANGES IN CASH		
From operating activities	\$108,352	(\$564,252)
Changes in Non-Cash Working Capital Account	\$1,976,620	(\$1,041,749)
Cash from financing and investing activities	\$204,293	\$519,285
Net Increase in cash	\$2,289,265	(\$1,086,716)

AHMA's audited financial statements are available on request.

About AHMA

AHMA is an umbrella organization of 41 Indigenous housing providers. Our members serve more than 5,000 Indigenous families living in urban, rural and northern regions of British Columbia. Created for Indigenous People, by Indigenous People, we are the first Indigenous housing authority in Canada and only second in the world.

In addition to affordable housing, AHMA members offer many support services, from homelessness prevention to transition homes, parenting skills and daycare, mental health programs, substance use support, and more.

AHMA is located on the unceded traditional territory of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation in West Vancouver, BC.

"Our members are calling on AHMA to strengthen our capacity to support a full spectrum of services—from housing to shelters, transition houses and friendship centres—that empower Indigenous people."

AHMA CEO **Margaret Pfoh**



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