

ABORIGINAL HOUSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION



AHMA ENERGY CHAMPION

DRAVEN DARKKE

Director of Asset Management
M'akola Housing Society



PROFILE

Draven has been the Director of Asset Management at M'akola for nearly eight years.

He is a senior management professional with two decades of experience in property and project management.

He is passionate about contributing to M'akola's vision to house families through holistic asset management approaches and leading innovative major renewal projects across British Columbia.

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HOUSING SOCIETY

M'akola Housing Society is an Indigenous non-profit housing provider and AHMA member. M'akola offers family housing, homes for singles and couples and assisted living for Elders and seniors. M'akola's housing spans across British Columbia, with more than 1,800 homes serving more than 5,000 family members.

M'akola's logo is designed by Richard Hunt, a Kwagwiltz (Kwakiutl) Native from Fort Rupert. It represents a family of killer whales, and the form is in the shape of a house post with a cross beam. The killer whale is said to represent the spirit of the great chiefs. The killer whale is used in the dance Klasala, or Peace dance.

ENERGY JOURNEY

AHMA shared information about the [Indigenous Communities Conservation Program](#) (ICCP) with Draven in 2021. ICCP provides [rebates on home efficiency upgrades](#).

M'akola's focus on tenants' well-being motivated them to use this funding opportunity to integrate energy efficiency upgrades into major capital projects.

ABORIGINAL HOUSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

AHMA

AHMA is an umbrella organization composed of 55 Members that are each Indigenous Housing and Service providers. Our members represent over 10,000 Indigenous families living in urban, rural, and northern regions of British Columbia.

Created for Indigenous Peoples by Indigenous Peoples, we are the first Indigenous Housing Authority in Canada and only the second globally. We are direct partners with the Provincial government, and our mission is to advance the housing rights of all Indigenous Peoples living in BC.

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ENERGY RETROFITS

Through major capital renewal projects and participation in ICCP, M'akola has completed energy efficiency upgrades at multiple sites. Energy retrofits include upgrades to building insulation, new ventilation, new windows/doors, and installing heat pumps in units for heat and air-conditioning to replace oil and gas furnaces. M'akola's Board of Directors is committed to energy efficiency for tenants' homes and reducing fossil fuel reliance.

TENANT BENEFITS

M'akola's tenants experience multiple benefits from energy efficiency projects. Tenants have acknowledged more comfortable living conditions, reduced monthly utilities costs and a higher living standard. The upgrades create healthier indoor living environments involving balanced air temperatures, reduced noise levels, reduced moisture and improved air quality. Electric heat pumps can dramatically cut heating costs for our tenants, and the new windows, doors and insulation retain the heat in the home more effectively. M'akola property managers provide regular information to tenants to help families save energy and improve living conditions.

ENERGY ADVICE

One key energy conservation success factor is engaging your housing maintenance team.

"Our maintenance staff are on call to support tenants and arrange repairs to building systems. All systems are inspected at regular intervals to ensure they are working optimally."

M'akola is fortunate to have a great team and leaders across BC. Each region has dedicated property managers, assistants and maintenance staff who support the tenants.

M'akola's head office in Langford, B.C., also has the offices of their committed administration and finance staff. The City of Langford is located on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish, specifically Xwsepsum (Esquimalt), Lekwungen (Songhees), Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay), and the WSÁNEĆ Peoples represented by the Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tsawout, Tseycum, and Malahat Nations.

