



Aboriginal Housing Management Association
Celebrating 25 Years

NEWS RELEASE

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Okanagan Nation Traditional Territory
Kelowna, BC

Community leaders stand together to spark understanding, support, and action in the prioritization of Indigenous Housing

Traditional Territory of Okanagan Nation – Community leaders stood today demonstrating support for safe, affordable Indigenous housing. The Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) invited elected officials, municipalities, Indigenous communities, affordable housing providers, and community stakeholders to join in the gathering.

“There is no reconciliation without inclusion and belonging. Indigenous housing offers intention, it honors Indigenous communities, cultures, and values, and these differ between communities,” said Margaret Pfoh, AHMA CEO. “Today we stand collectively to demonstrate the role Indigenous housing plays in strengthening our communities, supporting individuals and families, and creating a sense of belonging and wellbeing.”

AHMA’s long term vision is for every Indigenous community to access and reclaim their inherent rights to housing. This includes supporting members who live away from their home communities. This event created a special opportunity to community leaders to collectively demonstrate the importance of Indigenous community led housing and to connect over common goals.

“Conversations like these are so important to address the urgent need and create solutions for better housing options for Indigenous individuals, families and Elders in communities across B.C.,” said Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and Acting Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing. “I would like to thank the Aboriginal Housing Management Association for the important work it does each and every day in supporting Indigenous Peoples who need safe and affordable housing.”

In attendance were several Indigenous housing providers, non-profits, and community stakeholders from across the Okanagan Valley to join the conversation.

This housing strategy fills the void that’s been left in the supply of Indigenous housing. The federal government needs to respond to this well-thought-out strategy and include it in the national housing strategy,” said Karen Gerein, Executive Director, Vernon Native Housing. “Our communities are much stronger when we see the support for Indigenous people who are overrepresented in marginalization.”



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Quick Facts:

- In early 2022, AHMA released British Columbia's first [Provincial Urban Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy](#). The historic strategy is an integral step forward in claiming and protecting the social, economic, and Indigenous housing rights of all urban, rural, and northern Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia.
- The Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) was established in 1996 with a mission to "lead and advance housing rights for ALL Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia".
- AHMA is comprised of 55 Indigenous housing and service providers located all across BC. These members manage more the 95% of all Indigenous housing units in urban, rural, and northern areas of the province (off reserve).

Media Contacts:

Margaret Pfoh
Chief Executive Officer, AHMA
604-768-5400
mpfoh@ahma-bc.org

Kelly Moon
Communications Manager, AHMA
604-921-2462
kmoon@ahma-bc.org