



Aboriginal Housing Management Association
Celebrating 25 Years

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Affordable housing conference explores Indigenous housing justice

Return to in-person conference in Vancouver will focus on uncovering housing solutions amid challenges of climate change, overdose deaths, racism and homelessness

Unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, Vancouver BC (Nov. 1, 2022) – Housing advocates, policymakers, leaders and frontline providers will convene this month to explore new ways to deliver safe, secure and affordable housing across the province. The Housing Central Conference, running Nov 21 to 23, will highlight innovative ideas and new solutions that address an array of urgent housing needs.

Through keynote speakers, education sessions and other activities, delegates will participate in discussions about how we can move forward equitably in tackling the housing and homelessness crises that are disproportionately affecting Indigenous Peoples in B.C. and across Canada. The conference is jointly hosted by the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA), BC Non-Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA), and the Co-operative Housing Federation of BC (CHF BC).

“An equity-based approach to housing centres Indigenous rights and Indigenous leadership. AHMA’s strategy offers a proven For Indigenous, By Indigenous approach that we have long advocated for, and we will be sharing this at the conference,” says AHMA CEO, Margaret Pfoh. “AHMA’s strategy provides expert-driven solutions to the housing struggles that urban Indigenous people are facing.”

“We continue to advocate for a holistic, committed response that includes sustained investment in culturally supportive, trauma-informed Indigenous housing,” adds Pfoh. “We look forward to being with other affordable housing advocates to explore ways to expedite the processes required to meet the urgent needs of those living with housing precarity.”

2022 #HOUSINGCENTRAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Thought-provoking keynote and speaker events including: **Dr. Pamela Palmater, Professor and Chair of Indigenous Governance at Toronto Metropolitan University**; Dr. Robert Bullard, Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy; Ivan Coyote, musician and storyteller; Dr. Naheed Dosani, palliative care physician; and a seniors panel moderated by Isobel MacKenzie, Seniors Advocate for BC.

The conference offers more than 80 education sessions including:

- a **broader focus on Indigenous housing** and the annual **Indigenous Caucus**,

- the rollout of **Complex Care** to support those with higher needs, presented by AHMA’s Celeste Hayward,
- exploring and affirming **Indigenous Partnerships, Culturally Supportive Housing and Diverse Needs**, jointly presented by AHMA and Community Living BC,
- **Housing is the Land – Decolonizing on Hul’q’umi’num Territory**,
- sharing progress on the **BC First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Authority**,
- **Cultural Safety**, and more.

Additional sessions include topics exploring affordable housing for women, Indigenous leadership, supportive housing, harm reduction and overdose prevention, improved outcomes for youth, energy efficiency, learning from lived experiences of homelessness, and many more.

Art Exhibition: Together features original works by diverse and talented and inspiring local artists who have been pushed to the margins by physical ability, homelessness, housing insecurity, colonial oppression, and mental illness.

“We are thrilled to return to our in-person conference, particularly as we celebrate 30 years of gathering with our partners across the affordable housing sector to learn, connect and discover new ways to address the ongoing challenges facing the sector,” said BCNPHA CEO Jill Atkey.

“There has never been a more important time to join together in the pursuit of new knowledge and new partnerships that will shape the way we tackle the affordable housing crisis for years to come,” added Thom Armstrong, CEO of CHF BC. “The Housing Central Conference brings together the leaders and decision-makers who will propel the community housing sector forward.”

Members of the media are invited to attend the Housing Central Conference from Nov. 21 to 23, 2022 at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre. Visit conference.housingcentral.ca for more information.

To register for the conference, or to arrange an interview with Housing Central leaders and/or keynote speakers, please contact:

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AHMA is a grassroots organization made up of 55 members that represent over 95% of Indigenous Housing and Service providers in BC. AHMA members support almost 10,000 Indigenous families living in urban, rural, and northern regions of BC. Created for Indigenous Peoples by Indigenous Peoples, AHMA has 25 years of experience and expertise as the first Indigenous Housing Authority in Canada.

BCNPHA is the provincial umbrella organization for the non-profit housing sector. We serve our members and the entire sector across BC with education, events, and advocacy.

CHF BC is a co-operative association made up of member housing co-ops and related organizations in BC. The association represents more than 260 co-op communities comprising more than 14,500 households across the province.