

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We are gathered on the unsundered territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Lilwat7úl (Lil'wat) Nations who have lived on these lands since time immemorial.

We honour elders past, present, and future from each of these Nations and traditional territories.

Reconciliation In Action

Or, as we know it, reconciliACTION
...on urban Indigenous housing

Margaret Pfoh, Chief Executive Officer
Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA)



THE DEVOLUTION

A brief history of AHMA

1

1993

CMHC announces it will stop building new urban Native housing units and devolves social housing to the provinces.

2

1994-1996

A collective of Indigenous housing societies forms in response - this evolves into what is now AHMA

3

2004

AHMA and the Province of BC, through BC Housing, officially sign an interim self-management agreement - the first of its kind in Canada.

4

2012

AHMA and BC Housing sign the BC Aboriginal Social Housing Management Agreement (ASHMA) to devolve all provincial Indigenous housing programs to AHMA and members.

5

2018

The BC Government & AHMA announce the historical 'Building BC: Indigenous Housing Fund' (IHF). Making BC the first province to fund both on and off reserve housing.

6

2019 - 2022

AHMA celebrates 25th anniversary!

The Constitution and Bylaws are renewed at the 2021 AGM.

In 2022 AHMA releases BC's first Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy!

What is reconciliACTION?

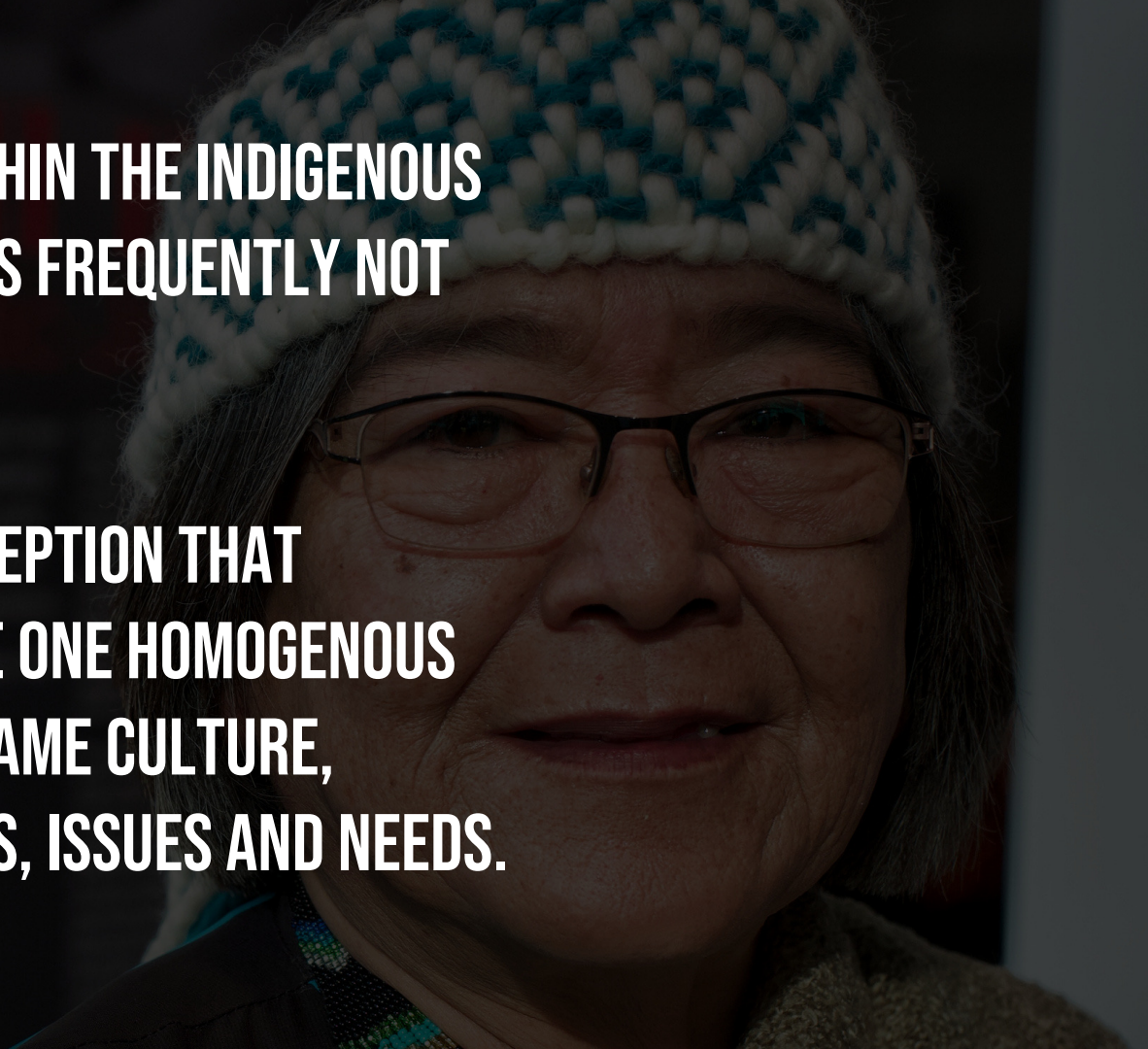
Acknowledge the history of our relationship to date.

Take responsibility for your role in what has happened.

Take action to move from a relationship and systems of violence and oppression to one of mutual respect and dialogue.

**CULTURAL DIVERSITY WITHIN THE INDIGENOUS
POPULATION OF CANADA IS FREQUENTLY NOT
RECOGNIZED.**

**IT IS A COMMON MISCONCEPTION THAT
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ARE ONE HOMOGENOUS
GROUP WHO SHARE THE SAME CULTURE,
TRADITIONS, WORLDVIEWS, ISSUES AND NEEDS.**





FIBI HONOURS CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Distinction-based strategies fail
87% of Indigenous Peoples not
living on reserve lands, because
their nations are limited in capacity
to help those living away from home.

AHMA's strategy bridges these
gaps.

A dark, grainy photograph of a person lying on a wooden bench. The person is wearing a grey hoodie and sneakers, with their head resting on their arm. The background is out of focus, showing what appears to be a fence or railing.

POLICIES AND BARRIERS CONTINUE TO REINFORCE DISPLACEMENT, EXCLUSION, SEGREGATION, AND POVERTY.

The federal National Housing Strategy has allocated only 2% of its funding to Indigenous households not living on reserve land, but over 80% of Indigenous families in BC live in urban environments.



THE FUTURE OF LEADERSHIP IN HOUSING

AHMA & UBCM working together

We must move away from colonial practices with a focus on ecological, economic, social well-being rooted in the diversity of Indigenous knowledge and traditions.

The Power of a Theme

"Value of One, Power of Many"

There are many ways that local governments can and must work together with Provincial and Federal governments to reduce barriers and open avenues for the delivery of safe, affordable, culturally supportive housing to the most vulnerable people in the communities served.

The Value of One

People experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity are PEOPLE and deserve the same respect and dignity as those who can afford homes.

We need to reduce stigmas and prioritize support for those who are struggling.

The Power of Many

When addressing affordability issues in housing, municipalities can play a vital role by prioritizing those most vulnerable including:

- women, especially single mothers,
- racialized people,
- gender-diverse people, and
- Indigenous families

A photograph of two women embracing in a home setting, overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The woman on the left is wearing glasses and a red shirt under a dark jacket. The woman on the right is wearing a grey t-shirt and blue shorts. In the background, there is a kitchen with a white refrigerator, a countertop with various items, and a living area with a grey sofa, a green fuzzy pillow, and a lamp. A sign on the wall reads "Follow Your Dreams Take the Flight".

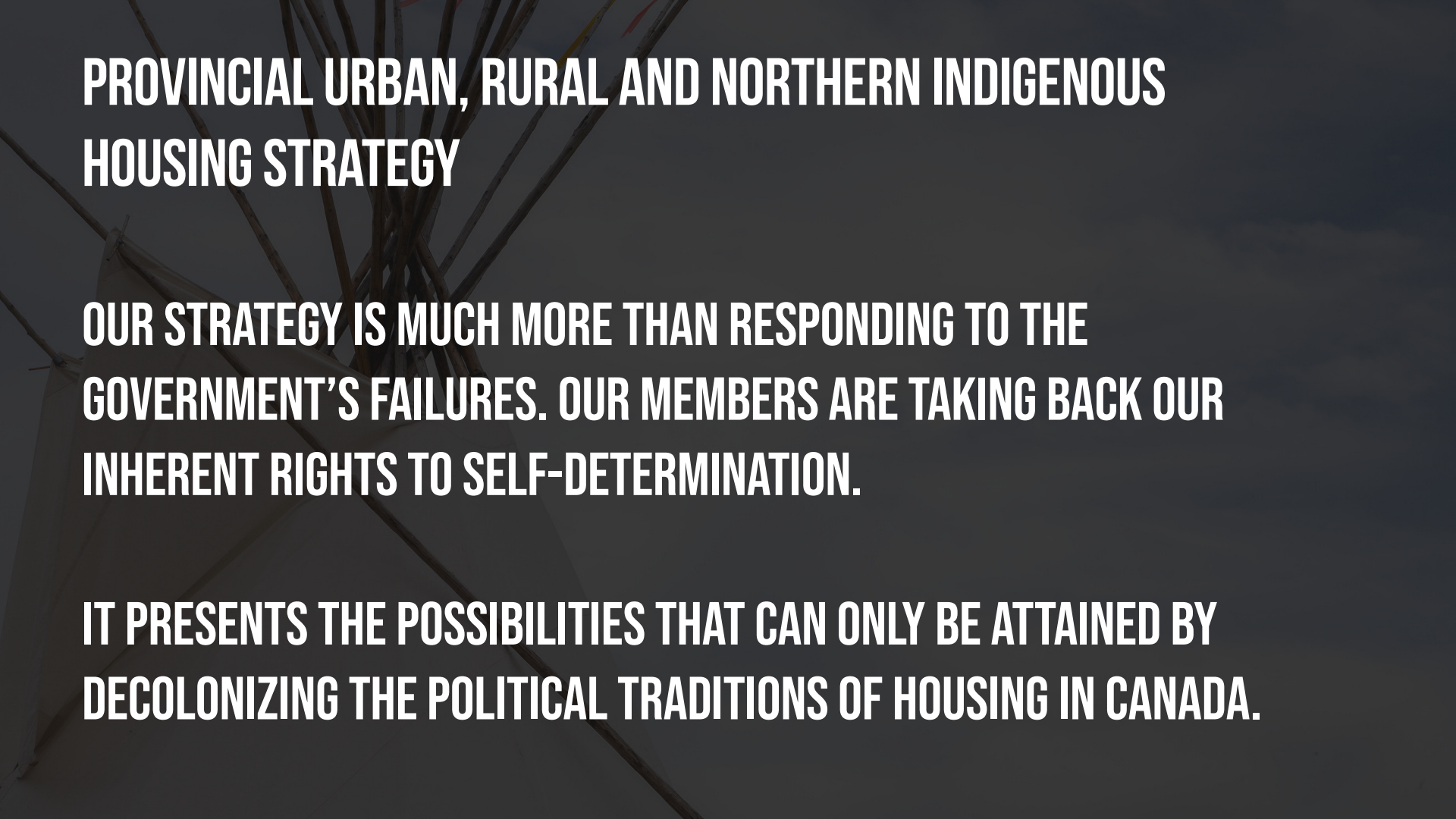
Housing as a human right

Advancing reconciliation requires all communities to ensure that decision-making on housing considers the needs of Indigenous Peoples and recognizes that adequate housing is not only foundational to the beginning of a healing path but also a basic human right.

Right to housing

Housing is one of the most foundational needs for all human beings (along with food and water).

Article 2 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights requires that investments to further implement the right to housing must reflect a standard of a **maximum of available resources**.



PROVINCIAL URBAN, RURAL AND NORTHERN INDIGENOUS HOUSING STRATEGY

**OUR STRATEGY IS MUCH MORE THAN RESPONDING TO THE
GOVERNMENT'S FAILURES. OUR MEMBERS ARE TAKING BACK OUR
INHERENT RIGHTS TO SELF-DETERMINATION.**

**IT PRESENTS THE POSSIBILITIES THAT CAN ONLY BE ATTAINED BY
DECOLONIZING THE POLITICAL TRADITIONS OF HOUSING IN CANADA.**



AHMA'S STRATEGY

4 KEY OBJECTIVES

1. Address the housing needs of all Indigenous households living in urban, rural, and northern communities.
2. Make Indigenous homelessness a rare, brief, and one-time experience.
3. Ensure Indigenous people have access to a variety of housing solutions, including homeownership.
4. Support improved health and wellbeing of Indigenous people through safe, stable, and culturally appropriate housing programs and services.



RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Our goal is to empower Indigenous communities to access their inherent rights to housing

COMMUNICATE

Colonial practices of housing allowed government to create competition and distrust; AHMA is finding ways to connect respectfully and openly communicate

RESPECT

AHMA honours all Indigenous communities right to self-determination and that is rooted in our strategy.

**AHMA AND OUR
STRATEGY ARE
COMMITTED TO
DECOLONIZING
HOUSING POLICIES AND
PRACTICES**

A photograph of four Indigenous people, two men and two women, standing in a room with large windows. They are wearing traditional regalia, including feathered headdresses and patterned tunics. In the background, there are informational displays. One display on the right has the text "EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES TO ACCESS THEIR INHERENT RIGHTS TO HOUSING" and a QR code. Another display on the left has the text "BC'S FIRST URBAN, RURAL AND NORTHERN INDIGENOUS HOUSING STRATEGY".

**"NOTHING FEELS MORE EMPOWERING THAN
BEING PART OF A SOLUTION."**

CHIEF DANA TIZYA

T'OYAXSUT NÜÜN FOR GATHERING WITH US.

We'd love to keep the conversation going.

Subscribe to the AHMA messenger. A newsletter filled with updates and innovative ideas from AHMA members.

Connect with AHMA via our social media @ahma.bc

