

***Housing from Foundations to Completion
HRS Gathering June 14-15, 2023
Summary***

The Housing Resources Service (HRS) held a Gathering in Kamloops on June 14th and 15th. We had 31 attendees representing 15 First Nations. The Participants represented the unique needs and aspirations of the Nlaka'pamux, and Secwépemc Nations and Upper Nicola Band.

The Objectives for the Gathering were:

- Networking and sharing of ideas
- HRS Update
- Learn about some better practices from other First Nations regarding their housing projects
- Hands-on experience on developing Housing Budgets
- Hands-on experience using Project Management for the development of a housing project
- Updates from Housing Program and Educational Institutions representatives, and
- Asset management software

The topics and information exchange also flow from the themes of last year's Gathering, *"Together we Can Create Housing Solutions"* and, the recent POD workshops on *"Developing a Housing Community Plan"*.

The following were First Nations Housing Guest Speakers shared stories and successes:

- Tiffany Boyce from Canim Lake Band talked about their Tiny Homes Project,
- Dennis Pierre, Siska Indian Band spoke about their Modular Alternatives, and
- Dan Rodgers and Maria Beaurain, Neskonlith Indian Band, provided an overview of their Asset Management System
- Cliff Chillihitzia and Elaine Paul, Upper Nicola Band, shared about successful rent collection strategies, how and asset management tool can save time and costs, and the importance of data collection.

The participants were able to have Project Management and Budgeting hands-on experience including applying real situation group case studies with Natasha Taylor, D & T Developments, and Jacqueline Johnson, Kamloops Native Housing Society.

Patricia McCourt and Eric Adamson, Indigenous Services Canada, and Neil Barrett, CMHC, provided overviews of their Housing Programs and heard participant feedback on how the federal government Housing Programs can work with First Nations communities.

Amie Schellenberg and Marie Weisbeck, with Thompson Rivers University (TRU), provided an overview of accessible training programs and opportunities.

Other highlights included:

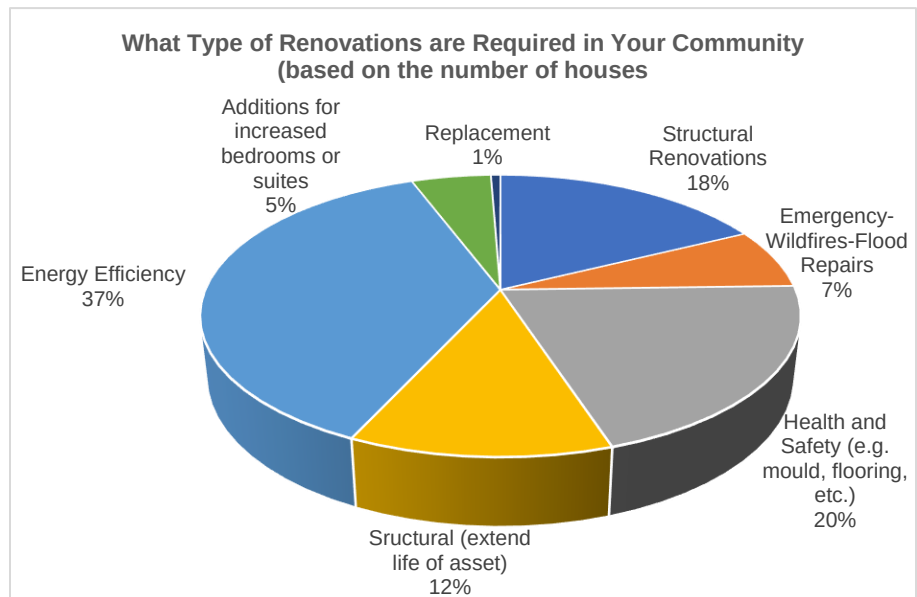
- HRS Strategic Plan
- HRS Update and recognition of the guidance provided by Steering Committee Members
- Shared experience for incentives of rent collection and performing home inspections, and
- The importance of Data Collection and how it can save time, money and provides your community with first-hand knowledge in a specific area, which could be used for applying for funding.

The participants identified the following gaps, including:

- Support for funding proposal writing,
- Data collection to provide a picture of the current housing situation in communities,
- Training needs included: housing policies, tenant relations/preventative maintenance programs, trades (electrical, carpentry, plumbing, red seal), housing maintenance, and program and asset management,
- Explore other funding sources to offset the housing construction/renovation costs,
- Issues with getting construction supplies,
- Impact of delays with funding approvals, which causes delays in construction, and impacts the costs,

- Need for Indigenous Building Code Inspectors,
- Explore a working relationship with First Nations Market Housing Fund (FNMHF),
- Work with Indigenous organizations (e.g., local colleges, universities and Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Programs) to help to address the training needs.

From the 13 First Nations that completed the Housing Data Collection, 37% of the homes need energy efficiency repairs followed by twenty (20%) of the houses needed health and safety repairs.



Next steps discussed during the Gathering:

1. Identify community needs such as data needs, training, contractors, proposal writing, etc. to:
 - Identify POD workshops (one-day workshop in communities) topics,
 - Support outreach and specific skill building/training of First Nations, and
 - Identify the type of information and improving the accessibility of the HRS website.
2. Explore potential options for asset management software.
3. Explore developing a working relationship with FNMHF.
4. Have a session that looks at a "Successful Housing Project," which would look at recently completed housing projects. The participants would do a "postmortem" on the completed housing projects so that they could learn from other participants on what worked, areas of improvement, gaps, area that could be streamlined.

Based on the active participation of the attendees and their evaluations, the "Housing from Foundations to Completion" theme of the Gathering was relevant, informative and an opportunity to share best practices!



A big thank you to the Gathering Participants who attended. Your contributions allowed us to realize and exceed our Gathering's Objectives!