

RESEARCH REPORT SUMMARY

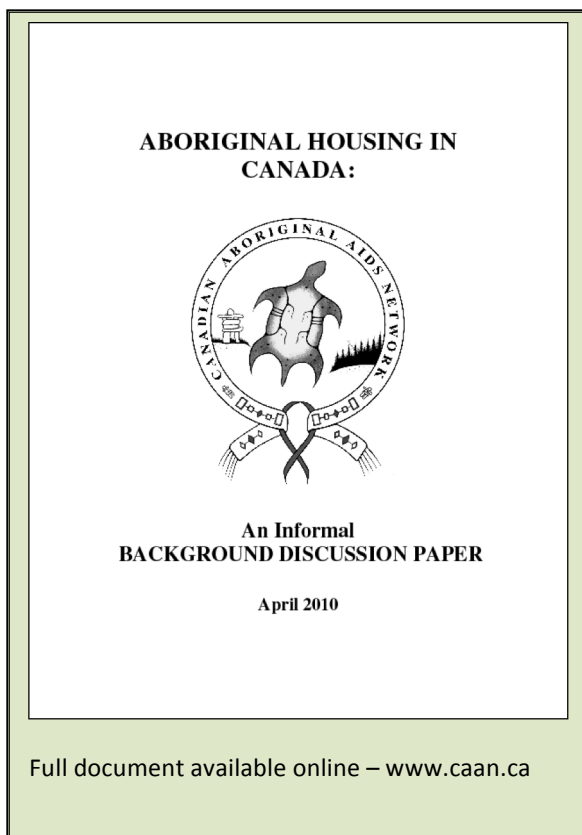
Aboriginal Housing in Canada: An Informal Background Discussion Paper

Prepared by Charlie W. Hill, 2010

Between April 2008 and March 2010, the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN) worked with a team of exceptional community and academic researchers to pursue funding to conduct research regarding housing, HIV/AIDS and Aboriginal Peoples. This non-academic discussion paper was prepared as background information to provide an overview of the Aboriginal Housing environment in Canada. The goal is to deepen general understanding of the historical roots of Aboriginal social housing policy in Canada and to contextualize the policy environment to be influenced through current and future research initiatives.

Specifically, this informal discussion paper:

- Summarizes the historical roots of Aboriginal Housing program(s), funding and policy in Canada for both the Urban and on-reserve environments;
- Describes developments and significant changes in programs, funding and policy over the years;
- Identifies “who” (Federal/Provincial/Territorial government, First Nations government) is responsible for Aboriginal Housing; and
- Overviews a snapshot of the social reality of housing resources i.e. number of units, quality of units, cost of units, etc. in Canada.



ADDRESSING THE NEED

The NAHA study identifies five key targets to be pursued over the next decade to help address the problems with urban Aboriginal Housing, namely:

1. Prevent further growth in housing need: As the non-reserve population continues to grow stem the growth in need by providing assistance to 1,000 new households annually;
2. Reduce and equalize core housing need: To reduce Aboriginal need below 12.5% of the non-reserve population requires provision of 3,000 dwellings annually (combination of new construction, acquisition and rental assistance);
3. Preserve and improve the existing social housing stock: 1,000 dwellings improved annually;
4. Reduce Aboriginal homelessness: create 1,000 new transitional and supportive housing spaces with ongoing support services;
5. Increase the non-reserve Aboriginal home-ownership rate (54%, in 2006) to match that of the non-Aboriginal population (68%): provide assisted to 4,000 households annually to access affordable ownership.

RECOMMENDATION

One key recommendation from NAHA is that this ten-year plan be adopted and further, that a National Aboriginal Housing Strategy be developed and implemented, always with genuine and engaged consultation with Aboriginal Housing Providers. **Such a strategy must include elements to provide housing for Aboriginal persons living with HIV/AIDS.**

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