

***“The Government of Canada’s distinctions-based (First Nations, Metis and Inuit) Indigenous Housing Strategy creates a large service gap for the 87% of Indigenous Peoples not living on First Nation reserve lands, but in the urban rural and northern parts of Canada.”***

Indigenous Housing Caucus Working Group, Canadian Housing and Renewal Association, 2018

## THE NEXT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST PRIORITIZE AN URBAN RURAL AND NORTHERN INDIGENOUS HOUSING STRATEGY

On October 21, 2019, Canadians will go to the polls to vote for their next government. The *Toronto Indigenous Community Advisory Board*, *Peel Alliance to End Homelessness*, *Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness*, and *The York Region Homelessness Community Advisory Board* join in calling on all candidates to commit to immediate action upon election to create, in partnership with Indigenous housing service providers and Indigenous off-reserve communities and experts, an Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy.

This must be people-centred and service-focused and the 4<sup>th</sup> pillar to complement the current, 3-pillared distinctions-based approach underway with the First Nations, Metis and Inuit populations.

***The 87 % of Indigenous peoples living in Canada’s urban and rural centres face unique housing challenges.***

***Reconciliation with Indigenous people includes specific interrelation with the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and national housing strategies as well as creating space for Indigenous self-determination.***

### The next government must:

- Develop, in partnership with urban, rural and northern Indigenous housing providers and experts, a strategy to raise housing standards for Indigenous peoples to that of the non-Indigenous population within the next 10 years.
- Dedicate funding to this end in line with the scale of need.
- Create and fund a National Indigenous Housing Centre.



York Region  
Homelessness  
Community  
Advisory Board

## The FACTS

- Indigenous people have faced a housing crisis, much documented and studied, since the 1930s in Canada.
- Over 400 articles were published in the *Globe and Mail* about Indigenous housing disparity, inequality and federal inaction between 1959 and 2011 alone.
- 1 in 15 Indigenous people in Canada are homeless, compared to 1 in 128 for the non-Indigenous population.
- 23% of Indigenous households live in unsuitable dwellings, compared to 14% of non-Indigenous households.
- Indigenous people suffer from much higher rates of housing discrimination, and do not live in housing that is culturally appropriate.

From the 2018 enumerations of people experiencing homelessness in our communities we know that:

- In Toronto 16% of those contacted identified as Indigenous, when they only make up 2% of the general city population. And 38% of all people sleeping outside are Indigenous.
- In York Region 17% of those enumerated are Indigenous, even though they are less than 1% of the general York Region population – and this is a 4% increase over 2016.
- In Peel Region 9% of respondents are Indigenous, a 2% increase the last enumeration.
- Across all our communities, Indigenous people are much more likely to have been homeless longer and became homeless at an earlier age than non-Indigenous people.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ✓ Send a message to the candidates in your riding telling them why a national Indigenous Housing Strategy needs to be a priority. Visit [taeh.ca](http://taeh.ca) and download our constituent's letter.
- ✓ Share the letter with your network.
- ✓ Tweet candidate' with the hashtag [#nationalindigenouhousing](https://twitter.com/nationalindigenouhousing)
- ✓ **VOTE ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 21!**

### Learn MORE

- [In the Absence of Policy: First Nations & Aboriginal Housing in Canada, Dr. Y Belanger](#)
- Enumeration reports
  - [Peel](#)
  - [York Region](#)
  - [Toronto](#)
- [TASSC](#)
- [Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres - A Coordinated Vision for Indigenous Housing](#)
- [Canadian Housing Renewal Association URBAN, RURAL, & NORTHERN INDIGENOUS HOUSING - The Next Step](#)
- [Canadian Housing and Renewal Association -Indigenous Caucus – For Indigenous By Indigenous National Housing Strategy](#)