



MIHCEMI Newsletter

November 2025

Welcome to the latest edition of the MIHCEMI Newsletter! This is our 5th issue and dedicated to the loving memory of our Honorary Room Facilitator Chief Jim Bear and long standing Working Group Member Franklin Ross



You will always be loved, You will forever be missed,
You will never be forgotten.! Rest Easy!

This cohort is the 2nd intake that began the Housing Manager Certification in August of 2024

One more Course to go!





MIHCEMI Working Group



12 Independent First Nations

7 Tribal Council Housing Advisors representing 51 member bands.

Indigenous Service Canada

Other Gov'd Depts: Efficiency MB, CMHC, FNHSSM, FNHPA etc.

MIHCEMI Sub-Committees

Training Sub-Committee
 Chair: Wayne Clarke, NHCN
 Members:
 Candace Garson, FNHPA
 Wilbur Baker, OPCN
 Tristen Guttormson-Kent, SERDC
 Ostap Kaminsky, DOTC

Housing Forum Sub-Committee
 Chair: Sasha Young, SCTC
 Members:
 Eleanor Brockington, NCN
 Clarence Harper, ILTC
 Chris Stove, IRTC
 Sasha Young, SCTC

Building Codes Sub-Committee
 Chair: Ostap Kaminsky, DOTC
 Members:
 Chris Stove, IRTC
 Bruce Flett, WRTC
 Iain Geeves, Efficiency Manitoba
 Edwin Chin, FNHSSM
 Keaton Knight, FNHSSM

MIHCEMI Working Group Administration Southeast Resource Development Council Corp.

MIHCEMI Project Coordinator is responsible to arrange a facilitator to Chair Working Group Meetings

MIHCEMI Project Coordinator: Ingrid Fortin
Administrative Assistant: Justyn Parsons

October 2025

4-Quarterly Meetings per calendar year

Days will be sent to the Working Group by outlook calendar (email) for the following months with location.

February 2026 (2 days)

May 2026 (1 day)

August 2026 (1 day)

November 2026 (2 days)

UPDATE:

Please note according to ISC records Waywayseeccappo First Nation was formally unaffiliated from DOTC as of June 1, 2018.

Therefore 12 independent First Nations will now sit on the MIHCEMI Working Group. The list has been updated along with a new member Curtis Gambler.

Welcome to the Working Group Curtis!

MIHCEMI Working Group Representatives

<p>Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council (DOTC) Ostap Kaminsky</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation • Sandy Bay First Nation • Long Plain First Nation • Swan Lake First Nation • Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation 	<p>Island Lake Tribal Council (ILTC) Clarence Harper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Sucker Lake First Nation • Wasagamack First Nation • Garden Hill First Nation • St. Theresa Point First Nation
<p>Interlake Reserve Tribal Council (IRTC) Chris Stove</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation • Dauphin River First Nation • Lake St. Martin First Nation • Lake Manitoba First Nation • Pinaymootang First Nation • Little Saskatchewan First Nation • Peguis First Nation 	<p>Keewatin Tribal Council (KTC) George Neepin/Linda Hunt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fox Lake Cree Nation • Tataskweyak Cree Nation • York Factory First Nation • Bunibonabee Cree Nation • Manto Sipi Cree Nation • God's Lake First Nation • War Lake First Nation • Northlands Denesuline First Nation • Sayisi Dene First Nation • Barren Lands First Nation • Shamattawa First Nation
<p>Swampy Cree Tribal Council (SCTC) Sasha Young</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wuskwi Siphik • Sapotaweyak • Chemawawin • Misippawistik • Opaskawayak • Marcel Colomb • Mathias Colomb • Mosakahiken Cree 	<p>Southeast Resource Development Council Corp. (SERDC) Tristen Guttormson-Kent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brokenhead Ojibway Nation • Black River First Nation • Hollow Water First Nation • Bloodvein River First Nation • Little Grand Rapids First Nation • Pauingassi First Nation • Berens River First Nation • Poplar River First Nation
<p>West Region Tribal Council (WRTC) Bruce Flett</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pine Creek First Nation • Skownan First Nation • O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi First Nation • Ebb and Flow First Nation • Gambler First Nation • Keeseekoowenin Ojibway Nation • Rolling River First Nation • Tootinaowaziibeeng Treaty Reserve 	<p>12 Independent First Nations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffalo Point First Nation – Danette Rousseau • O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Creen Nation – Wilbur Baker • Pimickamak Cree Nation – Vivian Scott/Carl Monias • Canupawakpa Dakota Cree Nation – Derek Sandy • Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation – Eleanor Brockington • Norway House Cree Nation – Wayne Clarke • Fisher River Cree Nation – Trisha Murdock • Sagkeeng First Nation – Milly Cook/Jason Fontaine • Dakota Tipi First Nation – Joel Pashe • Dakota Plains Wahpeton Nation – Matthew Smoke • Sioux Valley Dakota Nation – Nathan Hall • Waywayseecappo First Nation – Curtis Gambler

MIHCEMI Leadership Housing Forum



Manitoba Indigenous Housing Capacity Enhancement & Mobilization Initiative

Sub-Office Phone: 204-956-7500

575-360 Broadway, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0T6

October 15, 2025

RE: MIHCEMI LEADERSHIP HOUSING FORUM

Manitoba Indigenous Housing Capacity Enhancement and Mobilization Initiative (MIHCEMI) is made up of representation from 12 MB Independent First Nations, 7 MB Tribal Councils, Indigenous Services Canada, CMHC, Efficiency Manitoba and other professionals in the housing profession.

MIHCEMI is inviting leadership to attend a 2-day Housing Forum and will be paying for 3 representatives per community (Chief, Housing Portfolio Councillor and Housing Contact). Travel will not be covered for others that want to attend the leadership. This includes AMC, MKO, SCO, and other MIHCEMI partners.

The purpose of this Housing Forum is to provide background information to leadership on MIHCEMI, its mission, role and what has transpired from this initiative to date. Status updates will be provided by the Working Group and its sub-committee groups relating to issues on housing, training, and building codes/assessments. There will also be updates from our partners – ISC, CMHC, Efficiency Manitoba, FNHSSM, FNHPA & FNNBOA. This event will allow for open discussions on this initiative and how it impacts housing in our First Nations.

The forum has been scheduled for February 3 & 4, 2026 at Victoria Inn Hotel, 1800 Wellington Avenue from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. Travel and accommodations will be provided including breakfast and lunch on both days. Please notify Justyn Parsons at jparsons@serdc.mb.ca or call **204-583-0293** to register and if you will require accommodations.

Return the attached travel claim to Ingrid Fortin at ingridf@serdc.mb.ca or fax **1-888-613-7901** by Tuesday, January 13th, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. if you would like your cheque at the forum.

All other travel will be sent out after the forum.

Please note that an agenda will be provided to individuals who are registered to attend.

Best regards,

Ingrid Fortin

Ingrid Fortin

MIHCEMI Project Coordinator

Greetings from MIHCEMI Staff

Greetings All,

My name is Justyn Parsons and I am a member of Hollow Water First Nation and reside in Winnipeg. I began working with Southeast Resource Development Council (SERDC) Advisory and Manitoba Indigenous Housing Capacity Enhancement & Mobilization Initiative (MIHCEMI) as the Administrative Assistant just over 1 year ago, starting October 15, 2024. Prior to joining the SERDC/MIHCEMI team my background was in Business Administration, and I look to bring that expertise and my work ethic to the organization to be successful in my role. I have learned lots about indigenous housing in Manitoba and the importance of capacity enhancement and look forward to continuing my education in this industry. I am currently enrolled in the First Nation Housing Professionals Association (FNHPA) Housing Managers Manitoba Intensive Program (MIP) and will receive my FNHP designation in 2027. I am also enrolled in courses to be a certified Part 9 Building Inspector through Red River College Polytech. The MIHCEMI group has allowed me to meet and connect with individuals all across Manitoba that work in the housing industry that all have the same common goal, to improve first nations housing in our communities.

Manitoba
Indigenous
Housing
Capacity
Enhancement
Mobilization
Initiative



Aaniin!

I celebrated my 4th year as the MIHCEMI Project Coordinator on August 7th. I am proud to be a member of this group. I know the work we do is about something far greater and that each person has wisdom that they bring to the table. When we work together, whether that be our quarterly meetings or sub-committee meetings, I am always learning and always challenged. For that I am grateful. I continue to build relationships with everyone in our Working Group and its contacts. I look forward to working with everyone further, as the past 4 years have been rewarding so far.

Miigwech!

Ingrid Fortin



Save the Date

MIHCEMI
Annual Housing Conference



Homes That **HEAL**,
Communities That
THRIVE

June 16-17, 2026



2026 MIHCEMI Conference

June 16-17, 2026

Victoria Inn Hotel & Convention Centre 1808 Wellington Avenue

Winnipeg, MB REGISTRATION FORM

Register here: <https://www.eventcamp.ca/survey/73340f38>

Thank you for submitting your registration from your community or tribal council for the 2026 MIHCEMI conference, June 16 & 17, 2026.

Each community/tribal council can register up to two (2) delegates, and the forms below can be emailed to EventCamp Services, at support@eventcamp.ca or faxed in to: 204.257.5205.

Costs included for the first 2 delegates from each community/tribal council:

- 1) Mileage and or flight accommodations to and from the venue
- 2) Meals during travel
- 3) Registration Fee
- 4) Hotel accommodations

If you would like to send more delegates to this event, we are happy to have them join us. Those individuals can register online at this link: at a cost of \$400 per delegate. For additional delegates, please type this into your web browser to pay for and register your other delegates:

<https://www.eventcamp.ca/event/mihcemi-2026/access> (or scan this QR code)



Please also note that additional delegates from a tribal council or community will be responsible for booking, and paying for:

- 1) Flights and accommodations
- 2) Hotel stays
- 3) Meals during travel

If you have any questions about the MICHEMI event, please contact Christine Dueck at via email at christine@eventcamp.ca or Riel ree Dion at radion@eventcamp.ca.

Housing Manager Certification

1st Intake (2025)

Graduated-Completed

1. CJ LacQuette
Skownan First Nation (WRTC)
2. Jeremy Parsons
Hollow Water First Nation (FNHPA)
3. Marcia Assiniboine
Long Plains First Nation
4. Trisha Murdock,
Fisher River Cree Nation
5. Tristen Guttormson-Kent,
Brokenhead Ojibway Nation (SERDC)
6. Wallace Roulette
Ebb & Flow First Nation
7. Clarence Harper
Island Lake Tribal Council
8. Nicole Delorme
Swan Lake First Nation
9. Danette Rousseau

Exciting News!

The Training Sub-Committee has voted and be will giving a second chance the following participants to complete the 2 year course. They will start at the course they didn't complete.

Linda Trout

Caitlin Green

Xandra Lee Pruden

Larry Nepinak

Wilbur Baker

Marjorie Nielsen

Montana Kyle Stagg

Wishing everyone success!

2nd Intake (2026)

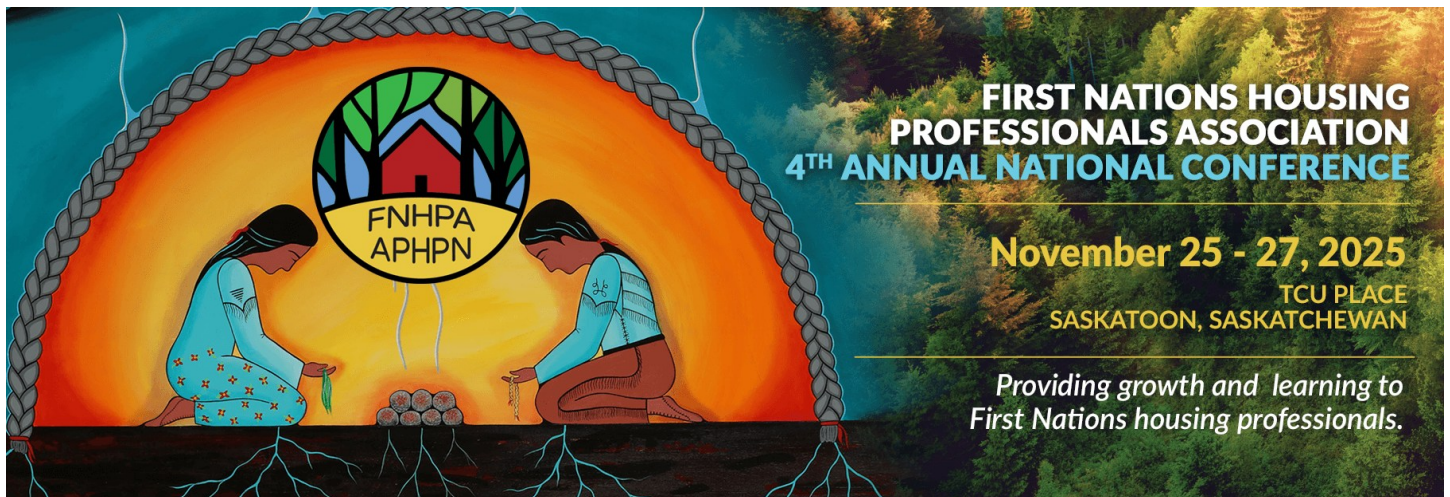
Current

1. Alfred Laughler
Norway House
2. Bev Ready
Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation
3. Colleen Peebles
Black River
4. Joel Pashe
Dakota Tipi
5. Kenneth Bone
Keeseekoowenin
6. Marvin Sutherland
Skownan
7. Sasha Young
SCTC
8. Selena Kern
Brokenhead
9. Stephen Squirrel
Peguis
10. Tanya Eashappie
Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation
11. Tracy Berens
Berens River
12. Vionne Al-Shimari
Lake Manitoba
13. [Montana Kyle Stagg](#)
Pinaymootang First Nation
14. [Marjorie Nielsen](#)
Peguis First Nation
15. [Wilbur Baker](#)
O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation

3rd Intake (2027)

Current

1. [Linda Trout](#)
Gods Lake First Nation
2. [Caitlin Green](#)
Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation
3. Justyn Parson, SERDC
4. Stephen Starr
Sandy Bay First Nation
5. Serena Tacan
Sioux Valley Dakota Nation
6. Andrew Fountain
Sakgeeng First Nation
7. Chase Boulette
Hollow Water First Nation
8. Lionel Poulette,
Sandy Bay First Nation
9. Connor Merrick
York Factory First Nation
10. Gilbert (George) Custer
Barren Lands First Nation
11. Rodger Hawco
Pimicikamak Cree Nation
12. Samantha Fidler
Opaskwayak Cree Nation
13. Milly Cook
Sakgeeng First Nation
14. [Xandra Lee Pruden](#)
Bloodvein River
15. [Larry Nepinak](#)
Pine Creek First Nation



FNHPA Update

The First Nations Housing Professionals Association (FNHPA) hosted their Inaugural Annual Regional Housing Gathering. The gathering was hosted in September at the Hilton Inn in Winnipeg and was a success. FNHPA would like to thank all the housing professionals who attended and participated. FNHPA also appreciates the feedback and looks forward to planning for next years gathering.

Towards the end of 2025 FNHPA will be hosting two more workshops, Housing Governance & Leadership and a Matrimonial Real Property (MRP) Workshop and Training Session.

The working partnership between MIHCEMI & FNHPA will also see several resources developed in 2025 for the topic of Basic Home Maintenance for First Nations Housing Departments in Manitoba.

A message from the Regional Coordinators:

Being in our positions for over a year, we've been building relationships and offering training and support to staff working in their First Nation's Housing Department. We have been invited to sit at the table with the MIHCEMI Working Group and the sub-committee meetings, and we have also been visiting the communities throughout Manitoba. We have heard the successes and challenges of First Nations housing departments. We understand that each First Nations is at different stages in their housing department and some challenges or barriers are more demanding in some communities, than others.

The gathering was there for us to share ideas and learn from one another and to become aware of the services and supports that can be offered from FNHPA and the other organizations that presented at the gathering.

Even though every nation is at different levels when operating and running their housing departments, we were all there for the same thing, to help our communities.

Please call us anytime!

Ekosi/Miigwech,

Candace Garson – Regional Relations Coordinator – Northern Manitoba

1-204-583-0572 or Candace.g@fnhpa.ca

Jeremy Parsons – Regional Relations Coordinator – Southern Manitoba

1-204-583-0790 or Jeremy@fnhpa.ca

First Nation Housing Professionals Association - Manitoba Gathering 2025





EFFICIENCY MANITOBA

WINTER WARMTH & SAFETY: PRACTICAL TIPS FOR FIRST NATIONS HOMES

As winter settles in across Manitoba, keeping homes warm while managing energy costs is a challenge many families face. Regular maintenance of your heating system is one of the most effective ways to improve efficiency—clean or replace furnace filters monthly during heavy use, and consider having your system inspected to ensure it's running safely and effectively. If you use space heaters, make sure they're placed on flat surfaces away from flammable materials, never left unattended, and plugged directly into wall outlets (not extension cords). For homes using wood-burning stoves, ensure chimneys are cleaned annually to prevent creosote buildup, and always burn dry, seasoned wood to reduce smoke and improve heat output. Avoid storing large amounts of firewood indoors—doing so can introduce excess moisture into the home, which raises the risk of mould growth and poor indoor air quality. These small steps can help keep your home comfortable and safe throughout the season.

For deeper energy savings, First Nations communities can access support through Efficiency Manitoba's **First Nations Energy Efficiency Program (FNEEP)**. This initiative offers free energy-saving upgrades such as insulation, air sealing, and efficient lighting to qualifying homes. These improvements not only help reduce heating costs but also improve indoor comfort and safety. To learn more or find out if your community is participating, contact your local housing coordinator and reach out to us directly at indigenousprograms@efficiencymb.ca

Are you a contractor or tradesperson working in a First Nation community? Efficiency Manitoba is looking to connect with local trade allies who can help deliver energy-saving upgrades through programs like the **First Nations Energy Efficiency Program (FNEEP)**. If you're experienced in insulation, air sealing, HVAC, or electrical work—and want to support healthier, more efficient homes in your community—reach out to your local housing coordinator and contact us directly at indigenousprograms@efficiencymb.ca.



Building Housing Inspectors Course

National Building Code Training

FNNBOA (First Nation National Building Officers Association) along with MIHCMI (Manitoba Indigenous Housing Capacity Enhancement Mobilization Initiative) are proud to announce the successful completion of the 2025 graduating class for Manitoba Indigenous National Building Code Training. The training consisted of 5 courses that encompassed over 90 hours of in class training along with 24 hours on online delivery. This included the following courses – Technology & Inspections, Authority Having Jurisdiction, NBC – House, NBC-Plumbing and NBC 9.36 Energy Efficiency training. The courses were specifically designed and delivered to build capacity for housing managers and other technical workers. The delivery was designed to encourage and to assist participants in gaining a better understanding and knowledge of the value and preparation for certification and the base line for acceptable building construction practices. They have contributed to improving careers and housing in their communities.



Congratulations, these individuals have successfully completed the training.

1. Greg Abraham
2. Craig Abraham
3. Tyrell Albert
4. Ryan Beckstead
5. Shayne Bruyere
6. Barry Bulycz
7. Joey Carriere
8. David Carlson
9. Ethan Cook
10. George Custer
11. Tristen Guttormson-Kent
12. Clarence Harper
13. Alex Hart
14. James Henry
15. Kevin McGillvary
16. Dwight Moody
17. Carlson Murdock
18. Larry Nepinak Jr
19. Christopher Qeskekapow
20. Lionel Roulette
21. Uriah Spence
22. Stephen Starr
23. Marvin Sutherland
24. Adrian Thomas

Congratulations!



Many thanks also go to Ingrid Fortin and Justyn Parsons from the MIHCEMI-SERDC Team along with Tanya McKenzie from FNNBOA in making this opportunity a decisive success.

Train the Trainer Home Maintenance Workshop (Winnipeg December 2 – 4/2025)

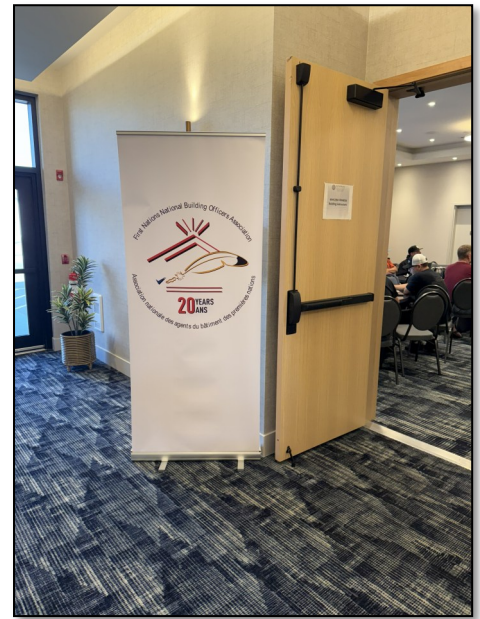
This training workshop acknowledges that while housing managers oversee building maintenance, home upkeep extends beyond their duties and those of the community council.

This three-day course provides community project leaders and those interested in maintenance with essential theory and hands-on training in basic home maintenance. There's a strong focus on preventive maintenance, as well as practical everyday home maintenance activities. The prime objective is providing the communities and everyone with the knowledge tools and understanding of providing homeowners and tenants with information and guidelines for the proper care and maintenance of their home.

Participants will receive a thumb drive (digital copy) of the training presentation along with an opportunity to learn more about basic home maintenance tools. Early arrivals on December 1st have the opportunity to join us to visit a local supply store to get acquainted with home maintenance tools and materials.

Who is the training workshop for? • Property managers • Housing managers • Council members • Maintenance departments • Those looking to share their knowledge and understanding of the importance of home maintenance • As well as homeowners and tenants.

More details to follow.
Claude Lawrenson



CMHC Team News!

Christine Edward joined the Indigenous and Northern Housing Solutions (MB/SK Region) team back in 2022. Soon after she began serving as CMHC’s liaison with MICHEMI. In this key role, Christine was provided critical insight into the successes and challenges within First Nations housing in MB.

In October, Christine began a new role at CMHC, joining the Client Relationship Management Team (Municipal Relations) as a Senior Specialist. Christine enjoyed representing Manitoba’s INHS Team on the committee, attending quarterly meetings and providing input on the housing conferences. Christine congratulates the committee on their accomplishments and partnerships created over the past few years. They have improved capacity and training for the nations. Christine hopes to catch up with members at the FNHPA conference later in November!

With Christine helping Canadian municipalities, **David Danyluk** (“Danyluk”) has stepped in to the vacancy to serve as the INHS liaison to MICHEMI. Danyluk worked at Manitoba Housing for 13 years developing new affordable housing across Manitoba with Northern Housing Operations, then as Manager of New Project Delivery, before joining CMHC’s INHS MB/SK team in April 2021. Danyluk has participated or presented in several MICHEMI events and looks forward to assisting the committee continue its impressive record of supporting nations develop talent and systems to develop and preserve homes. Danyluk joins Diane Drader as Co-Lead for MIHCEMI.

2026-2027 Key Dates

RRAP (Renovation Program)	Dates
Preliminary Eligibility Notices	Sent in Sept/Oct
Eligibility Deadline	Nov. 20, 2025
Allocation Letters	Dec. 1, 2025
Application Deadline	Feb. 13, 2026
Completion & declaration within 12 months of approval	

Section 95	Dates
Preliminary Eligibility Notices	Sent In Sept
Eligibility Deadline	March 10, 2026
Allocation Letters	March 31, 2026
Application Deadline	May 11, 2026
MLG/Security within 6 months of approval	
Completion & IAD within 24 months of approval	

NOTE: Dates are subject to change.

Christine’s departure also left a 25% hole in Manitoba’s INHS Team. We are delighted to report that **Sunshine Gonzales** will fill Christine’s work boots as the Client Specialist for Christine’s client portfolio. This transition will be quick as Sunshine has served in the exact same role in Saskatchewan for three years. Prior to CMHC Sunshine had five different roles over ten years at Manitoba Housing, and most recently as a Contract Manager with the Province’s aviation services. This is a natural fit as Sunshine is already part of the MB/SK team and lives and works in Winnipeg!

For reference see the next page for the client portfolios matched with each specialist as of November 2025!

Sunshine Gonzalez	Corey Retchuk	David Danyluk	Diane Drader
431-866-6811	204.318.1758	403.515.2918	204.318.1752
sgonzale@cmhc.ca	cretchuk@cmhc.ca	ddanyluk@cmhc.ca	ddrader@cmhc.ca
Southeast Resource Development Council Corp. (SERDC)	Island Lake Tribal Council (ILTC)	Keewatin Tribal Council Inc. (KTC)	Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council Inc. (DOTC)
West Region Tribal Council Inc. (WRTC)	Interlake Reserves Tribal Council Inc. (IRTC)		Swampy Cree Tribal Council Incorporated
FIRST NATION GOVERNMENTS			
Birdtail Sioux First Nation	Black River First Nation	Barren Lands First Nation	Berens River
Cross Lake Band of Indians	Brokenhead Ojibway Nation	Bunibonibee Cree Nation	Bloodvein
Dakota Plains First Nation	Canupawakpa Dakota First Nation	Chemawawin Cree Nation	Buffalo Point First Nation
Fisher River Cree Nation	Ebb and Flow	Dakota Tipi First Nation	Dauphin River
Gambler First Nation	Lake Manitoba	Fox Lake Cree Nation	Garden Hill First Nations
Hollow Water First Nation	Lake St. Martin	Marcel Colomb First Nation	God's Lake First Nation
Keeseekoowenin First Nation	Little Grand Rapids	Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation	Little Saskatchewan
Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation	Norway House Cree Nation	Northlands First Nation	Long Plain First Nation
Mathias Colomb Cree Nation	O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi First Nation	Pinaymootang First Nation	Manto Sipi Cree Nation
Pauingassi First Nation	Pine Creek	Sapotawayak Cree Nation	Misipawistik Cree Nation
Peguis First Nation	Red Sucker Lake	Shamattawa First Nation	Mosakahiken Cree Nation
Rolling River First Nation	Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation Government	Tataskweyak Cree Nation	Opaskwayak Cree Nation
Sagkeeng First Nation	Sandy Bay	Tootinaowaziibeeng Treaty Reserve	O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation
Sayisi Dene First Nation	Skownan First Nation	War Lake First Nation	Poplar River First Nation
Sioux Valley Dakota Nation	St. Theresa Point	Waywayseecappo First Nation Treaty Four - 1874	Swan Lake First Nation
Wuskwi Sipiik First Nation	Wasagamack First Nation	York Factory First Nation	

Manitoba Indigenous Housing Capacity Enhancement & Mobilization Initiative



*Season's Greetings
Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year.*