

Manitoba Indigenous Housing Capacity Enhancement Mobilization Initiative



# MIHCEMI Newsletter

April 2026

*Exciting news! A 4th intake for the Housing Manager Certification provided by FNHPA is now in progress. This group has 30 participants and started April 8, 2026. Wishing these students success in their courses!*



Save the Date

**MIHCEMI**  
Annual Housing Conference



Homes That **HEAL**,  
Communities That

**THRIVE**

**June 16-17, 2026**

# MIHCEMI Leadership Quarterly Report

March 2026



## Boozhoo and Greetings,

Thank you to all Chiefs, Council Members, Housing Leaders, and Community Representatives who joined us for the 2026 Leadership Housing Forum. Your participation and guidance continues to shape MIHCEMI's direction as we work together toward our shared goal of improving Housing in our Manitoba First Nations Communities.

Our work is grounded in the direction we receive from Manitoba Leadership. MIHCEMI was created by a Chief-in-Assembly resolution: it called for the creation of a Manitoba First Nations Housing Network developed by First Nations, for First Nations. The progress we are making reflects our commitment to advancing that mandate with professionalism, accountability, and transparency.

MIHCEMI is focused on Capacity Enhancement activities for our Manitoba region. The Department of Indigenous Services Act (2019) mandates ISC to transfer control of design, delivery and control of programs and services to Indigenous Organizations and Partners. This is also known as Transfer of Service Delivery. Any formal Transfer of Service Delivery must be with Manitoba Leadership engagement and authorization.

We have undertaken activities on the engagement side of Transfer of Service Delivery with the express understanding that Manitoba Chiefs need to be fully informed and involved. This is not something that can be done individually, but rather collaboratively.

We remain committed to ensuring that every Nation moves at its own pace, with clear information, strong partnerships, and community driven decision making. Thank you for your continued leadership and support as we move into the next phase of this important work.

**Migwech and Regards, on behalf of  
the MIHCEMI Working Group,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chris Olson'.

**Chris Olson  
MIHCEMI Administrator**

## Leadership Housing Forum Highlights

On February 3-4, 2026, the MIHCEMI Leadership Housing Forum brought together representatives from all 63 First Nations in Manitoba, seven Tribal Councils, and MIHCEMI's partners. The gathering focused on updates from MIHCEMI's subcommittees, progress on the 2025 Strategic Vision and the growing momentum toward service delivery transfer.



### 2025 Strategic Vision Progress

Leadership received updates on the eight key recommendations approved in 2025, including:

1. Developing a preferred governance and service delivery model
2. Introducing scalable core housing competencies
3. Establishing a Centre of Excellence for research and innovation
4. Strengthening partnerships and shared service delivery models
5. Advancing "Made in Manitoba" housing standards and best practices

6. Identifying IT platforms for communication and resource sharing
7. Negotiating a 5 year financial plan
8. Developing a multi year communications strategy

These recommendations continue to guide MIHCEMI's work and shape the future of regional housing governance.

### Key Housing Challenges Identified & Re-emphasized

Leadership reaffirmed the ongoing challenges facing Manitoba First Nations, including:

- » Fragmented program delivery
- » Overcrowding and core housing need
- » Infrastructure gaps (roads, water, sewer, power)
- » Mold and aging housing stock
- » Geographic isolation and high construction costs
- » Lack of accurate, centralized housing data

These challenges continue to guide MIHCEMI's priorities and advocacy.



## Partner Updates

MIHCEMI's partners shared presentations and updates on programs, funding, and opportunities available to First Nations:

- » **CMHC** – update on funding programs, eligibility, timelines, and new federal initiatives that support housing development and repairs, and workforce development.
- » **Efficiency Manitoba** – showcased practical, community-led energy retrofit work and rebate opportunities.
- » **FNHPA** – elevating the professionalism and skills of housing staff through assessment, training, and certification pathways.
- » **FNNBOA** – strengthening technical capacity and introducing innovative inspection tools to support safer, higher-quality housing.

## What's Next: Transfer of Service Delivery

The Transfer of Service Delivery Subcommittee will be a primary focus for 2026. This work aligns with ISC's legislated mandate to transfer housing and infrastructure responsibilities to First Nations and with the AFN's 10-Year National Housing and Infrastructure Strategy.

It also directly advances the direction set by the Chiefs-in-Assembly in Resolution JUN-18.03, which called for the development of new First Nations-led housing systems and institutions. The subcommittee's work is a continuation of that mandate and a key step toward long-term self-determination in housing and infrastructure.

## ISC Phases for Service Delivery Transfer

An ongoing process with multiple stages which requires approval and endorsement from First Nations leadership and ISC.



## Purpose of the Transfer Initiative

MIHCEMI is advancing the creation of a First Nation-controlled, arm's length non-profit entity that will:

- » Support or deliver housing and infrastructure services
- » Enhance and expand housing services capacity
- » Aggregate technical, financial, and operational capacity
- » Strengthen governance and risk management
- » Protect Nations from unfunded liabilities
- » Ensure sufficient funding and resource needs is met
- » Provide a pathway to long-term self-determination in service delivery

## *Phased Transfer Approach*

Services will transition through four legally distinct stages:

1. **Advisory / Support** – Technical assistance only
2. **Joint Delivery** – Shared responsibility with clear limits
3. **Operational Control** – MIHCEMI delivers services under ISC funding
4. **Delegated Authority** – Long-term option where accountability flows directly to the Nation

Participation is opt in, and Nations move at their own pace.

## **Key Dates**

### **Mark your calendars**

*MIHCEMI Working Group*  
Quarterly Meeting

May 7, 2026  
Sandman Hotel, Winnipeg, MB

*Homes That Heal, Communities That Thrive*  
MIHCEMI Annual Housing Conference

June 16-17, 2026  
Victoria Inn, Winnipeg, MB

## **Collaboration is Key** **Let's work together**

Continued progress in housing requires coordinated effort, clear communication, and strong partnerships across all First Nations in Manitoba. MIHCEMI's work is grounded in the direction of leadership, and the success of the Transfer of Service Delivery initiative depends on sustained collaboration with Chiefs, Councils and housing professionals.

As we move into the Engagement and Proof of Concept Phase, MIHCEMI welcomes further involvement from leadership who wish to learn more, participate in readiness discussions, or explore how service transfer may support their community's long term goals.

Your engagement ensures this work remains First Nations-led and aligned with the mandate set by the Chiefs in Assembly. MIHCEMI looks forward to continuing this work together in a spirit of professionalism, accountability, and shared purpose.

For more information visit  
***MIHCEMI.webflow.io***,  
or contact Chris Olson at  
***204-599-8774*** or ***chriso@serdc.mb.ca***.



Manitoba Indigenous Housing  
Capacity Enhancement &  
Mobilization Initiative

## MIHCEMI Working Group Representatives

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



# MIHCEMI Working Group



12 Independent First Nations  
"voting members"

7 Tribal Council Housing Advisors representing 51 member bands.  
"voting members"

Indigenous Service Canada  
"non-voting members"

Other Gov'd Depts:  
Efficiency MB, CMHC, FNHSSM, FNHPA etc.  
"non-voting members"

## MIHCEMI Sub-Committees

**Training Sub-Committee**  
Chair: Wayne Clarke, NHCN  
Members:  
Linda Hunt, KTC  
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

**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  
Carl Monias, Pimicikamak

**Transfer of Service Delivery Sub-Committee**  
Members:  
Linda Hunt, KTC  
Bruce Flett, WRTC  
Vivian Scott-Pimicikamak  
Eleanor Brockington-NCN,  
Chris Stove, IRTC (Until another member can take over)

### 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

March 2026

### Training Sub-Committee



Taken at SERDC, in-person meeting April 14, 2026, Left to right: Candace, Wilbur, Tristen, Ostap, & Wayne. Missing: Linda.

### Building Codes Sub-Committee



Taken at SERDC, in-person meeting April 14, 2026, Left to right: Iain, Edwin, Chris, Ostap, & Bruce. Missing: Keaton and Carl.

### Housing Forum Sub-Committee



Taken at SERDC, in-person meeting April 14, 2026, Left to right : Sasha, Chris, Eleanor and Clarence.

**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 (2 days)

November 2026 (1day)

Eleanor will be needing someone to fill her seat upon her retirement, if any Working Group Voting member would like to volunteer, please reach out to Ingrid.

If you or any Leadership would like to attend one of our quarterly meetings please contact [ingridf@serdc.mb.ca](mailto:ingridf@serdc.mb.ca)

# MIHCEMI Leadership Housing Forum

The MIHCEMI Leadership Housing Forum was held at Victoria Inn Conference Centre, February 3 & 4, 2026

Registered 172

Attended 136

MIHCEMI invited leadership to attend a 2-day Housing Forum for 3 representatives per community (Chief, Housing Portfolio Councillor and Housing Contact).

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 were provided by the Working Group and its sub-committee groups relating to issues on housing, training, and building codes/assessments. There were also updates from our partners – ISC, CMHC, Efficiency Manitoba, FNHSSM, FNHPA & FNNBOA. This event allowed for open discussions on this initiative and how it impacts housing in our First Nations.



Manitoba Indigenous Housing Capacity Enhancement & Mobilization Initiative

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**MIHCEMI Leadership Housing Forum  
February 3 & 4, 2026  
Victoria Inn, 1800 Wellington Avenue, Wpg, MB**

**MIHCEMI Leadership Housing Forum  
February 3 & 4, 2026  
Victoria Inn, 1800 Wellington Avenue, Wpg, MB**

## AGENDA – DAY 1

## AGENDA – DAY 2

### Tuesday – February 3, 2026

### Wednesday – February 4, 2026

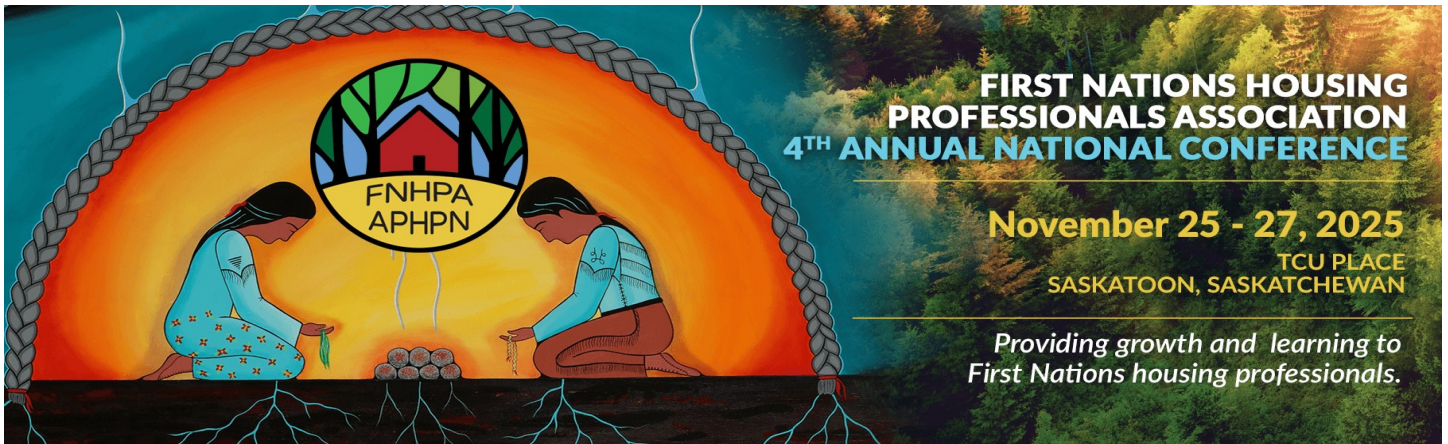
- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast – Buffet Style
- 9:00 a.m. Opening Prayer (Elder Bill Ballantyne)
- 9:10 a.m. Opening Remarks (Chief Gordon Bluesky)
- 9:20 a.m. Introductions - Round Table
- 9:45 a.m. Background and Review of MIHCEMI History (Chris Olson)
- 10:30 a.m. Health Break
- 10:45 a.m. Sub-Committee Updates
  - o Building Code (Ostap Kaminsky)
  - o Housing Forum (Eleanor Brockington)
  - o Training (Wayne Clarke)
  - o Transfer of Service Delivery (Sub-Committee Member)
- 11:30 a.m. ISC Update (Michele Morrisseau)
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch – Buffet Style
- 1:00 p.m. MIHCEMI Transfer of Service Delivery Update (Darin McLennan, MST Asset Management & Dr. Mandy Hansen, Insight Specialty Consulting)
- 2:30 p.m. Health Break
- 4:00 p.m. Close of Day

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast – Buffet Style
- 9:00 a.m. CMHC Update (David Danyluk)
- 9:30 a.m. MLG Process (Shawna Sajatovic)
- 10:00 a.m. Health Break
- 10:15 a.m. Efficiency Manitoba Update (Iain Geeves)
- 10:45 a.m. FNHPA Update (Candace Garson & Jeremy Parsons)
- 11:15 a.m. FNNBOA Update (Chris Stove)
- 11:45 a.m. Closing Remarks (Chris Olson)
- 11:55 a.m. Closing Prayer (Elder Bill Ballantyne)
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch – Buffet Style

# MIHCEMI Leadership Housing Forum



# FNHPA Gathering 2025



I attended the Annual FNHPA Conference on behalf of SERDC/MIHCEMI in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, November 25-27, 2025. The conference was amazing and allowed me to connect with housing professionals from all across Canada. They offered a variety of concurrent workshops that I found very informational and was able to take a few key things from each one that I attended.

The first workshop that I participated in was "Strengthening Housing Through Human Resources: Building Capacity On-Reserve". The workshop emphasized that the long-term success of on-reserve housing programs is not only dependent on technical expertise, but on strong human resource (HR) practices. Effective HR systems are essential to building a stable, accountable, and high-performing Housing Department that can meet a communities needs. Strengthening HR practices is critical to building a sustainable and effective Housing Department. By investing in people, processes, and workplace culture, the community can improve housing service delivery, enhance accountability, and build long-term capacity that reflects the Nation's priorities and values.

**Justyn Parsons**  
Administrative Assistant,  
SERDC/MIHCEMI

The second workshop I attended was "Housing Policy 101: Foundations for First Nation Housing Success". The workshop highlighted that a well-developed, community-driven housing policy is essential for effective housing management. Strong policies provide the framework for fair, transparent, and consistent decision-making while supporting both staff and community members. A strong housing policy is critical to building an effective and accountable Housing Department. By grounding policies in community values and maintaining them as living documents, the Nation can enhance fairness, improve operations, and support long-term housing sustainability and self-determination.

the third workshop I attended was "Innovating Together – Indigenous-Led Housing Solutions in Action". This session showcased how Indigenous communities across Canada are leading innovative, community-driven housing solutions. Supported by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), these initiatives demonstrate practical and scalable approaches that align with local priorities, cultural values, and long-term sustainability goals. Indigenous-led housing innovation is creating practical, culturally relevant solutions to ongoing housing challenges. By leveraging available programs and learning from successful projects, the Nation can adopt and adapt proven approaches to strengthen housing delivery, increase capacity, and support long-term community sustainability.



# Message from FNHPA Manitoba Representatives



We are excited to announce the soft launch of FNHPA’s new Learning Pathway Tool! This culturally informed, strength-based capacity assessment tool has been in development behind the scenes for the past year, and today we’re proud to share this important milestone with you.

The Learning Pathway Tool is designed to help you assess both your own housing management capacity and the operational capacity of your housing department at the community level. When you take the assessment, our analysts will work securely with your data to highlight strengths and identify potential growth opportunities. Our personalized reports highlight key areas for growth and guide you to the most relevant resources, creating a unique learning pathway for both professional and organizational development in First Nations housing.

We believe these insights will help you strengthen your housing capacity, enhance program delivery, and ultimately improve the quality of life for your citizens and protect your housing assets.

This announcement is Phase One of a multi-phased approach to ensure all housing professionals have the opportunity to benefit from this tool. In this first phase—2025/26—Senior Housing Professionals from Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Atlantic regions are invited to apply to take the assessment. Please reach out to us and we’ll guide you through the process.

This is just the beginning. In the new year, we’ll hard launch Phase Two, expanding access to more regions and groups. Keep an eye out for updates online and in your inboxes.

We look forward to assisting you through this or if you have any questions.

**Candace Garson – Regional Relations Coordinator  
Northern Manitoba**

**1-204-683-0572**

**candace.g@fnhpa.ca**

- **Island Lake Tribal Council**
- **Keewatin Tribal Council**
- **Swampy Cree Tribal Council**

Independent First Nations:

1. O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation
2. Pimickamak Cree Nation
3. Canupawakpa Dakota Cree Nation
4. Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
5. Norway House Cree Nation

**Jeremy Parsons – Regional Relations Coordinator  
Southern Manitoba**

**1-204-583-0790**

**jeremy@fnhpa.ca**

- **Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council**
- **Interlake Reserve Tribal Council**
- **Southeast Resource Development Council**
- **West Region Tribal Council**

Independent First Nations:

1. Buffalo Point First Nation
2. Fisher River Cree Nation
3. Sagkeeng First Nation
4. Dakota Tipi First Nation
5. Dakota Plains Wahpeton Nation
6. Sioux Valley Dakota Nation
7. Waywayseecappo First Nation

# Housing Manager Certification

## 4th intake participant list

April 2026—April 2028

- |                       |                                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Emilie McKinney    | Swan Lake First Nation             |
| 2. Bethany S. Cook    | Marcel Colomb First Nation         |
| 3. Tyrell Albert      | Norway House Cree Nation           |
| 4. Allison Meecas     | Norway House Cree Nation           |
| 5. Rhonda McDonald    | Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation        |
| 6. Curtis McDonald    | Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation        |
| 7. Yvette Munroe      | Bunibonibee Cree Nation            |
| 8. Faron Shorting     | Little Saskatchewan First Nation   |
| 9. Cheryl Bear        | Peguis First Nation                |
| 10. Sylvia McDougall  | Wasagamack First Nation            |
| 11. Rudy Kematch      | Sapotewayak Cree Nation            |
| 12. Melissa Gaywish   | Rolling River First Nation         |
| 13. Robert Lapensee   | Mathias Colomb Cree Nation         |
| 14. Bernice Ahmo      | O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi First Nation    |
| 15. Peter Loonfoot    | Garden Hill First Nation           |
| 16. Michael Hart      | Sayisi Dene First Nation           |
| 17. Ashley Ozunko     | Dakota Plains Wahpeton Nation      |
| 18. Melvin Delorme    | Lake St. Martin First Nation       |
| 19. Robert Owens      | Pauingassi First Nation            |
| 20. Shadow Murdock    | Fisher River Cree Nation           |
| 21. Herman Harper     | Red Sucker First Nation            |
| 22. Rod Spence        | Tataskweyak Cree Nation            |
| 23. Gerald Brightnose | War Lake First Nation              |
| 24. Samuel Swain      | Berens River First Nation          |
| 25. Sherman Flett     | Berens River First Nation          |
| 26. Candace Cook      | Brokenhead Ojibway Nation          |
| 27. Joe Dantouze      | Northlands Denesuline First Nation |
| 28. Sheldon Bushie    | Hollow Water First Nation          |
| 29. Martin Mclean     | Interlake Reserve Tribal Council   |
| 30. Tony Mckinney     | Dakota Plains Wahpeton Nation      |

The 1st intake (9 students) have completed the program!! They received their designation and are certified Housing Managers!

**Class of 2025**

*List of participants in past issues*

The 2nd intake (13 Students) is currently in their last course 500 and we are wishing them all the best in their final exams!

**Completion Spring 2026**

*List of participants in past 5th issue*

The 3rd intake (15 Students) is currently in course 200 and we are wishing them all the best in their courses.

**Completion Spring 2027**

*List of participants in past 5th issue*



# Housing Manager Certification

**Special Shout Out to our Manitoba Students that received recognition at the FNHPA Annual Gathering in Saskatoon in their courses for Housing Manager Certification. We are so proud of you all!**

<b>Course 100</b>	<b>Selena Kern, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation</b>
<b>Course 200</b>	<b>Selena Kern, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation</b>
<b>Course 300</b>	<b>Sasha Young, Swampy Cree Tribal Council</b>
<b>Course 400</b>	<b>Clarence Harper, Island Lake Tribal Council</b>
<b>Course 500</b>	<b>Trisha Murdock, Fisher River Cree Nation</b>



Pictures were taken at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, Wpg, February 23—27, 2026 at the in-person week for courses 200 and 500. The 2nd Intake and 3rd Intake joined together for some ice breakers and networking.



# EFFICIENCY MANITOBA

## **Save the Date: Indigenous Energy Efficiency Working Group (IEEWG)**

On May 27-28, 2026, Efficiency Manitoba will be hosting the next gathering of the Indigenous Energy Efficiency Working Group (IEEWG), bringing together First Nation housing staff, technicians, and leadership. This year's session is a key part of Efficiency Manitoba's Three-Year Plan engagement process, and we want to hear directly from our partners about priorities, challenges, and opportunities in community energy efficiency. Your insights will help shape future programming and guide how we support healthier, more efficient homes across Manitoba First Nations.

More details and a formal invitation will follow - please mark your calendars and stay tuned!

## **Cold Climate Design**

Manitoba has one of the most demanding climates in the world. Long, cold winters, rapid freeze-thaw cycles, and some of the highest heating demands in Canada. Cold-climate design isn't a luxury, it's essential. Here are four design considerations to improve home performance in Manitoba.

### **1. Inconsistent air barriers lack continuity**

Air leakage is the number one cause of moisture damage and heat loss in northern housing. Warm indoor air escapes into walls and ceilings, condenses, and feeds mould growth. Many homes rely on polyethylene sealed with tape, which works only if carefully detailed and protected.

A modern cold climate approach uses airtight membranes and service cavities (a shallow interior space created with strapping so electrical wiring and other services can be installed *without cutting holes in the air barrier*) along with blower-door testing to confirm continuity. The air barrier and insulation are two sides of the same coin - insulation slows heat loss, while the air barrier prevents air movement that undermines both energy performance and moisture control. Together, they form the foundation of a durable, healthy building envelope.

### **2. Under-insulated, unsealed crawlspaces**

Crawlspaces are the leading point of failure in many Manitoba First Nations. Vented crawlspaces draw in cold outdoor air, create freezing floors, and cause humidity spikes. The solution? Sealed, insulated, conditioned crawlspaces with poly on the ground, spray foam or rigid insulation on rim joists, and air sealing throughout. Proper bulk water and moisture management strategies in the crawl greatly helps to reduce incidents of mold, poor indoor air quality, and even radon gas.



# EFFICIENCY MANITOBA

### 3. Exterior insulation that prevents drying

In cold climates, we most commonly rely on the exterior walls ability to dry outward to manage moisture in the walls. Use of exterior foam insulation that does not allow for vapour diffusion traps moisture. High-quality exterior insulation such as mineral wool or vapour-permeable foam maintains drying potential while keeping sheathing warm to help prevent against condensation inside the wall cavity.

### 4. HRVs installed but never balanced

A heat recovery ventilator (HRV) is essential in airtight homes – it's what brings fresh air into the house and exhausts stale air. But it's useless if improperly installed. Many units are left unbalanced, running at ineffective airflow rates, or rarely cleaned and maintained. Proper commissioning requires airflow measurements, duct sealing, and community training. When HRVs work, indoor air quality improves dramatically and moisture problems drop.

### Closing Thoughts

Building and renovating in First Nation communities is challenging and often costly, but applying these cold-climate principles helps ensure that every dollar invested leads to healthier, safer, and longer lasting homes. By strengthening building practices and sharing knowledge across communities, we can reduce future repair needs, protect housing assets, and support the long-term wellbeing of families throughout Manitoba.

Contact our team at [Indigenousprograms@efficiencymb.ca](mailto:Indigenousprograms@efficiencymb.ca) to learn how we can support your new construction and renovation efforts.

Installation of mineral wool with rain screen principles applied. The ability of the wall to dry to the outside has been maintained, as mineral wool is a vapour open solution.



## Indigenous Youth Housing Internship Program (IYHIP)

The goal of the program is to assist interns in gaining work experience and pursuing long-term employment in the housing sector, or a related field.

The application period for 2026-27 is now open! You can submit your application through the *CMHC Housing Client Portal* from **April 1 to April 30, 2026**.



What types of initiatives are eligible?

*Any project or initiative that provides work experience or on-the-job training in housing. These internship opportunities include positions in housing administration, maintenance, construction, renovation, tenant relations, or other relevant areas.*



## On-Reserve Non-Profit Housing Program (Section 95)

22 Manitoba First Nations received allocations for 2026-2027

### TUESDAY MAY 12 - Application Deadline

Reminder MLG Tool Kits completed and approved by ISC and start construction within 6 months of Application approval.

For First Nations that were ineligible, a Second Eligibility Deadline of MAY 19<sup>th</sup> is available - funding will be limited.

## Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP)

38 First Nations were approved with funding deposited in February. Repairs should be underway or starting mid-May at the latest.

Quarterly Follow-Up emails will be sent Simple Survey email. Please respond.

If delays or issues come up please let CMHC know.

## Indigenous Government Offer (IGO) for Repairs (April 2023- April 2026)

In Manitoba:

36 First Nations have their 3-year agreement ending in April or Early May

Reporting via Attestation is due 90 days after the end of the 3-year Agreement.

IGO supports 244 units repaired ~ \$15,000/unit.

\$3.66 million CMHC funding paired with a minimum of \$5,490,000 in other funding

Those that completed the repairs and reported to CMHC are excluded from these figures



## FNNBOA 2026 National Conference

From the Ground Up: Strengthening Technical Capacity in First Nations Housing

June 1 - 3, 2026 | Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

FNNBOA National Conference from June 1 to 3, 2026 at the Delta Hotels by Marriott Dartmouth in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

Join Chiefs and Councillors, housing specialists, contractors, builders and suppliers, government representatives, and others as they come together to exchange ideas, spark collaboration, and strengthen capacity across the First Nations building and housing sector.

The conference features an optional value-added course on the first day, impactful plenaries and presentations, exhibitor showcases, high value networking, cultural performances, and more! It is a national destination for building partnerships, sharing knowledge, and advancing excellence in First Nations housing.

Find out more about the 2026 FNNBOA National Conference from June 1 to 3, 2026.

fnnboa.ca

# MIHCEMI Train The Trainer For Home Basic Maintenance

This training took place at the Sandman Hotel Wpg, December 2, 3 & 4, 2025. This training was provided by FNHPA and partnered with FNNBOA.

This training trained project leaders and maintenance motivated individuals with the theory and practical hands-on training required to succeed with the basic understanding of home maintenance with 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

1	Bulycz	Barry	Sapotawayak Cree Nation
2	Gott	Dave	Sapotawayak Cree Nation
3	Chartrand	Jessica	Pine Creek First Nation
4	Nepinak	Larry	Pine Creek First Nation
5	Hart	Alex	Nelson House Cree Nation
6	McDonald	Rhonda	Nelson House Cree Nation
7	Thompson Jr.	Allan	Peguis First Nation
8	Straight Jr	Doyle	Brokenhead Ojibway Nation
9	Bear	Cameron	Brokenhead Ojibway Nation
10	Queskekapow	Bobby	Norway House Cree Nation
11	Albert	Tyrell	Norway House Cree Nation
12	Harper	Derek	St Theresa Point First Nation
13	Flett	Bruce	West Region Tribal Council
14	Lacquette	Cyrus	Skownan First Nation
15	Chartrand	Linda	Skownan First Nation
16	Traverse	Melanie	Skownan First Nation
17	Bear	Cody	Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation
18	Wasteste	Kenisha	Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation
19	Young	Sasha	Swampy Cree Tribal Council
20	Guttormson Kent	Tristen	Brokenhead Ojibway Nation
21	Kyle	Montana	Pinaymootang First Nation
22	Pranteau	Lauren	Misipawistik Cree Nation
23	Flett	Floyd	Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council
24	McGillvary	Kevin	Opaskwayak Cree Nation
25	Peters	Dennis	Long Plain First Nation
26	Murdock	Shadow	Fisher River Cree Nation
27	Personius	Louis	Opaskwayak Cree Nation
28	Owens	Robert	Pauingassi First Nation
29	Pashe	Joel	Dakota Tipi First Nation





## PLANNING & CONTROLLING HOUSING COSTS WORKSHOP

### INFORMATION:

The First Nations Housing Professionals Association (FNHPA), in partnership with Swampy Cree Tribal Council (SCTC), will host the Planning and Controlling Housing Costs workshop in Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Manitoba on May 19–20, 2026.

This workshop provides an opportunity for participants to clarify the difference between housing debt, housing costs and housing deficits, consider their First Nations approach to managing housing costs and recognize opportunities to plan for and control housing costs. The workshop will be facilitated by Roxanne Harper.

**Time:**

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily

**Location:**

Opaskwayak Cree Nation  
Meeting Room: Veterans Hall



**DATE:**  
MAY 19 & 20,  
2026



**LOCATION:**  
OPASKWAYAK CREE  
NATION, MB

**Scan the QR Code  
to Register now:**





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](mailto: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](mailto:christine@eventcamp.ca) or Riel ree Dion at [radion@eventcamp.ca](mailto:radion@eventcamp.ca).