



Roles and Responsibilities for Housing

First Nations Housing Conference 2017
Roxanne Harper, Turtle Island Associates Inc



Responsibilities and Relationships

Accepting responsibilities requires us to understand our relationships. There are two very different relationships that define responsibilities for on reserve housing:

- (1) The First Nation and the federal government, and
- (2) The First Nation and its' membership.



Everyone Shares the Responsibility for Housing

'Everyone' wants housing that meets the needs of our communities and housing that is safe, adequate, affordable and durable.

'Everyone' falls into one or more of these categories:

- ❖ Membership
- ❖ Occupant
- ❖ Chief and Council
- ❖ Administration



Key Housing Elements a Community is Responsible for:

- ❖ Planning
 - ❖ Financing
 - ❖ Managing
- 



Membership


Help your community to be the best it can be by asking members to:

- ❖ Be aware, take part in housing meetings, review housing reports, audits etc.,
- ❖ Support decisions made by the administration and Chief and Council,
- ❖ Encourage everyone to accept their housing responsibilities,
- ❖ Understand that housing resources are limited and sometimes we have to say no.



Occupants

All occupants regardless of tenure should:

- ❖ Comply with their housing agreement and the policy,
 - ❖ Recognize the benefits of living in the community,
 - ❖ Ask for help when needed,
 - ❖ Participate in policy development when possible.
- 



Chief and Council

As decision makers Chief and Council is accountable to the membership and responsible to protect the millions of dollars of band owned housing assets. Chief and Council should:

- ❖ Support development of a housing strategy,
- ❖ Insist that a sustainable approach to housing is followed,
- ❖ Approve policies and plans that protect people and property,
- ❖ Commit resources that support housing (money, time and staff),
- ❖ Support the administration when enforcing policy,
- ❖ Evaluate housing programs and services to determine effectiveness,
- ❖ Ensure ongoing consultation and engagement with members.



The Administration

Staff involved with housing should:

- ❖ Develop policy and implement and enforce consistently,
- ❖ Develop and request budgets and monitor take-up,
- ❖ Identify and plan for changing housing needs,
- ❖ Perform all property management functions in a timely manner,
- ❖ Provide orientation for new and existing Chief and Council,
- ❖ Report to the leadership and membership on a regular basis,
- ❖ Identify improvement to policy, procedures or administrative practices.



Responsibilities Should be Defined and Communicated

- ❖ Decide how housing responsibilities will be delegated in the community,
- ❖ Inform and educate all parties about housing responsibilities,
- ❖ Ensure all parties are accountable to comply with their defined responsibilities,
- ❖ Recognize that responsibilities can and should change over time,
- ❖ Balance resources to assigned responsibilities,
- ❖ Never stop trying to do better.



Questions?



Choose a Question and fill in the blank

- 1) I plan to assist the membership in accepting their housing responsibilities by _____
- 2) I can assist occupants in accept their housing responsibilities by _____
- 3) I will assist Chief and Council in accepting their housing responsibilities by _____
- 4) I will personally accepting my housing responsibilities by _____