

# Housing Policy with Community Involvement

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# Housing Policy - Myths vs Facts

## MYTH

- Will solve all housing problems.
- We don't need one... we know what to do.
- What works for another First Nation can work for us.
- Once done it will never change.

## FACT

- Is only one of the tools needed for housing management.
  - Provides consistent direction.
  - Should be developed to fit your community.
  - Must be reviewed and updated on a regular basis to remain relevant.
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# Housing Policy is Needed to:

- Guide the delivery and management of housing programs and services.
- Clarify the responsibilities of the First Nation and the occupant.
- Provide direction to the administration on operational and management issues.
- Protect the financial investment made by the First Nation.

Community involvement is necessary to have a policy that fits your needs, embraces your values and traditions and protects both people and property.



# Why Community Involvement is Necessary

- Do you need the memberships approval, support, buy-in?
  - Are you identifying change that affect them?
  - Are you educating them on things they need to know?
  - Do they have information you need?
  - Do you need support for a decision?
  - Does your governance approach require consultation?
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# Three Stages of Community Involvement

- Planning
- Engagement
- Recording and reporting



# Planning Community Involvement

- Identify who should participate such as Elders, youth, tenants, staff.
  - Promote the meetings using every available option.
  - Plan different opportunities for participation.
  - Create a safe environment for everyone.
  - Consider peoples' needs (e.g. comfort, food, prizes, transportation, translation, visual and audio equipment)
  - Consider barriers to participation and what can be done to resolve/minimize them.
  - Identify necessary resources such as human resources, time, money.
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# Engaging Community Members

- Arrive early to the meeting location welcome participants as they arrive.
  - Tell people what you plan to do (meeting objectives, how they can participate, establish ground rules).
  - Use different methods to involve people, consider their needs, how they might feel, be sure to acknowledge and value their contributions.
  - Give everyone a chance to participate, ask questions and record feedback.
  - Give them copies of the information shared during consultation.
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# Sharing Information on the Housing Policy

There are many components to a housing policy such as: eligibility criteria, application/selection process, roles and responsibilities, unit condition assessments, subletting, termination of tenancy etc.

- Identify the policy components that are a priority for your community (maximum of 3 or 4 at one meeting).
- Review the current situation, confirm if there is a concern with an existing policy or need for a new one and ask for advice/suggestions to improve it.
- Use a structured approach to explain the situation and record feedback/suggestions.



# Recording and Reporting

- Keep track of all comments and record the general consensus.
  - Share statistics such as the number of participants, number of meetings.
  - Prepare a report on direction obtained, follow up or next steps.
  - Share the report with leadership, the membership and the administration.
  - Retain copies of presentations or information shared during the engagement.
  - Plan to keep communicating with members.
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# Challenges with Community Involvement

- Time consuming and expensive as often more than one meeting is required.
- Can get emotional as there are many opinions to be considered.
- Not everyone will attend or participate.
- Productivity requires planning and patience.



# Benefits

- Can bring positive change to the community.
  - Can help to build relationships and understanding of housing activities.
  - As housing affects everyone we can share the responsibility for change.
  - Collectively brings experiences, insights, and generates more ideas.
  - Could save time and money.
  - Reflects your values and traditions.
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# Thank You

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