

# **Chiefs of Ontario (COO) Housing initiatives:**

First Nation Housing  
Conference

Feb 26<sup>th</sup> , 2026





# 2025 in review

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## ➤ **A dedicated sector at COO**

Launched to strengthen coordinated advocacy and delivery across housing and related infrastructure.

## ➤ **URN Options**

COO worked with Consultants to develop options and designed solutions for Leadership consideration to support housing developments and essential services for First Nations populations living off-reserve to narrow the gap in housing needs between First Nations and non-First Nations in URN areas in Ontario

## ➤ **BCH**

COO initiated a Comms. and GR Plan and continued early engagement with Build Canada Homes to advocate for First Nations as explicit partners in governance and delivery through dedicated streams, procurement pathways, and access to federal tools (public lands/financing) at scale.

## ➤ **On-reserve funding: Section 95 & sunseting programs**

Pre-budget submissions (federal/provincial), supported CCOHI with timely briefings and guidance, and advanced Ontario priorities at national forums



# Mandates

# First Nation Off-Reserve Housing and Unhoused Data Sovereignty

What will 2026 bring in this project?

Foundations of a path to First Nations-led data access, control, and improved data quality in the off-reserve housing/homelessness systems.

Is this another survey ?  
What is the real impact for First Nations?

1. A base line to provide a clear picture
2. More support through Empowered regional advocacy groups

What are the paths you speak of ?

A clear pathway to formal data-sharing agreements and an Ontario-wide approach to First Nations-governed off-reserve housing/homelessness data.

# Urban , Rural and Northern (U.R.N) Current and Future Capacities

# Off-reserve Housing Initiatives in U.R.N Areas

- There is significant evidence that current approaches to housing and homelessness data collection off-reserve are deficient for analyzing the conditions, issues, and needs of First Nations living off-reserves.
- This project's goal - while ensuring support and respect of regional advocacy and strategies - is an effort for developing First Nation-led initiatives in Off-reserve Housing and Homelessness data needs and data sovereignty :
  - Helping First Nations and non-Indigenous governments, organizations, and services have **accurate** data on such variables as chronic homelessness, and core housing need that is a correct representation of First Nations needs and it is **managed and leveraged with OCAP® compliance**
  - And arguably more importantly , give First Nations greater control to decide how First Nation data is being used to inform housing and homelessness policies and fiscal planning.

# Off-reserve Housing Initiatives in U.R.N Areas

## 1.Upcoming Capacity

Create a structured inventory of shovel-ready and planned projects that would enable a forward looking analysis and proactive approaches to advocacy

## 2.Existing Capacity

Develop a concise, picture of existing shelter and housing capacity that serves First Nations peoples in key URN centers, to inform where and how to focus capital investments and partnerships.

### 2.1 Apply a Vulnerable populations lens, for example where:

An identified geographic location lacks women's shelters or safe spaces for 2SLGBTQQIA+ or other priority groups to inform leadership in decision making

## 3.Off-Reserve Population/Core Housing Need Analysis



**Miigwech!**

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