



Aboriginal Housing Management Association
Celebrating 25 Years

IAC Event Summary

On January 17th and 18th, 2024, the Indigenous Advisory House (IAH, formally the Indigenous Advisory Council) on Homelessness gathered in Vancouver to collaborate and prioritize actions moving forward. Approximately 59 people participated, representing 27 organizations throughout British Columbia (BC), as far away as Fort St. John. Distinction-based representation included presence of members from the BC Assembly of First Nations, Métis Nation BC, and the First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council (FNHIC). Three Elders were present at the gathering to offer insight and guidance, and stories were heard from more than five people with lived experience, including a moving story from All Nations Outreach.

AHMA gave a presentation outlining the work to date on homelessness to set the stage for ongoing discussion on how to move forward in a positive way. The FNHIC voiced that they are working on getting funding for provincial peer support workers; the First Nations Health Authority gave a comprehensive overview of the services and programs it offers; and a presentation about plant medicine for harm reductions was very positively received by the group.

Representation was present from MSDPR, MCFD, HOUS, MMHA, BC Corrections, Reaching Home, and BC Housing, with opportunities for questions and discussion with the group. Through workshop and discussion, the group cataloged the current landscape of Indigenous-led services and determined priorities for homelessness policy moving forward.

We were privileged to receive openings and closings with both Elder Syexwaliya (Squamish) and Elder Shayne Pointe (Musqueam), as well as have the presence of singers from the Squamish Nation at the group feast. This in-person gathering was an opportunity to discuss, connect, and collaborate in a meaningful way so that we can do our best to help our relatives experiencing harm and homelessness.