



Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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The Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Housing Strategy is a three year project creating occupant-focused housing need assessments, determining localized housing need, and developing housing solutions at the community and regional level. This project envisions community self-determination in housing. Understanding localized issues, needs and goals will inform governance and design that is appropriate and unique to communities with the objective of building houses and communities to meet existing and future need.

Existing assessments of housing are conducted using national-level indicators not relevant to the unique cultural needs and lived experience of NAN members. By not measuring appropriate indicators, proposed solutions do not address those issues, values and goals most critical to communities. To sustain long-term community housing goals, this project brings together community housing staff and local experts to establish peer-support networks, support local capacity building and generate new, appropriate ways of identifying community housing need.

The NAN Housing Strategy provides a unique opportunity to develop partnerships, support capacity development and work towards common goals to improve the health and well-being of NAN First Nations.

Partners

Nishnawbe Aski Nation Housing Strategy will be completed by a team of partners from Nishnawbe Aski Nation, the seven Tribal Councils within its territory, its forty-nine member First Nations and institutional partner Together Design Lab (TDL) at Ryerson University. NAN is a Political Territorial Organization representing 49 First Nation communities in northern Ontario. NAN continues to work to improve the quality of life for the Nishnawbe Aski territory and to advocate on behalf of the communities it represents for self-determination with functioning self-government. TDL is a team of students, staff and faculty with training in planning and architecture led by Dr. Shelagh McCartney. Relying on a collaborative and immersive approach, the listen-learn-share model, TDL believes that each community member brings unique and valuable knowledge and experience to housing discussions.

Vision + Purpose

Fulfill the human right of access to adequate housing and end the collective housing emergency in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation territory.

- 1) Work at the community and regional level to develop housing solutions and action plans that recognize the unique needs, geography and cultures of NAN First Nations.
- 2) Create community-led approaches to data collection and problem identification.
- 3) Support NAN First Nations' right to self-determination to their housing system.
- 4) Encourage flexibility and creation of design solutions rooted in local lived experience.

Project Phases



1) Building Relationships to Understand Housing

- Collect existing reports and housing data from each First Nation to create community housing profiles and associated maps
- Review and synthesize community housing profiles to create an overview of housing in the NAN territory including similarities and gaps

2) Identifying Community Housing Metrics

- Host seminar with housing professionals to identify issues, goals and themes in housing with a focus on occupant lived experience
- Train housing professionals to engage their own communities in identifying metrics
- Community facilitators and housing professionals conduct in-community workshops, where the project team will visit seven First Nations to provide on-the-ground support
- Assemble data and learnings from communities to be developed into a range of metrics

3) Creation of Data Collection Tool and Baseline Survey

- Develop core housing survey metrics as well as tailored, themed housing metrics
- Obtain feedback and finalize survey with each First Nation
- Train housing professionals to conduct their community's personalized housing survey
- Community facilitators and housing professionals conduct in-community surveying with a sample of households, where the project team will visit seven First Nations to provide on-the-ground support
- Collect, aggregate and analyze survey data for each First Nation and NAN territory level

4) Goal Setting for Housing Plans

- Obtain feedback and finalize survey with each First Nation
- Train housing professionals to conduct their community's personalized housing survey
- Community facilitators and housing professionals conduct in-community surveying with a sample of households, where the project team will visit seven First Nations to provide on-the-ground support
- Collect, aggregate and analyze survey data for each First Nation and NAN territory level

5) Moving Forward: Housing Plans

- Host project seminar to train housing professionals and community facilitators in the creation of community housing plans
- Identify common resources and capacity shortfalls

Contact Us

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