



Native Women's
Association of Canada



L'Association des
femmes autochtones
du Canada

Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing: Study on the right to adequate housing for Indigenous Peoples

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Introduction

The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) warmly welcomes the decision of the *UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing* (UN Special Rapporteur) to undertake a thematic study on the right to adequate housing for Indigenous Peoples.

By way of providing brief background information about NWAC, the organization is a National Indigenous Organization representing the political voice of Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse people in Canada, inclusive of First Nations on and off reserve, status and non-status, disenfranchised, Métis, and Inuit. As a collective of Indigenous women's organizations from across the country, NWAC was founded in 1974 on the shared goal to enhance, promote, and foster the social, economic, cultural and political well-being of Indigenous women within their respective communities and Canadian societies.

Today NWAC engages in national and international advocacy aimed at legislative and policy reforms that promote equality for its constituents. Through advocacy, policy, and legislative analysis, NWAC works to preserve Indigenous culture and advance the well-being of all Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse people as well as their families and communities.

In recent years NWAC has devoted ever great attention to the housing needs and priorities of Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse people. As such, NWAC has employed a team of staff with policy expertise on the topic. The two reports and fact-sheet which NWAC is hereby submitting to the UN Special Rapporteur very well reflects the organization's concerns in relation to Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse people in relation to housing in Canada.

NWAC's submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing comprises three separate files, as follows:

- Native Women's Association of Canada, *First Nations Housing Strategy – Indigenous Women, Girls, and LBGTQ2S: Engaging a National Framework for Housing Policy – Final Report* (April 2018);
- Native Women's Association of Canada, *Indigenous Housing: Policy and Engagement – Final Report to Indigenous Services Canada* (April 2019);
- Native Women's Association of Canada, *Housing Factsheet* (April 2019).

As can be seen from the first two documents, each report includes a set of recommendations which address the specific concerns of NWAC as highlighted in the main body of text. However, while we would enthusiastically encourage you to draw on this information, it would be appreciated if the enclosed materials are not - at this point in time - placed into the public domain, such as on the Internet.

Nonetheless, NWAC looks forward to discussing any of its concerns with the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing. The organization also remains at the Special Rapporteur's disposal to respond to any questions concerning the content of the attached reports and factsheet.

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