



OFIFC

Ontario Federation of
Indigenous Friendship Centres

Written Submission to the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs on the Effects of the Housing Shortage on Indigenous Peoples Across Canada

Date: March 25, 2022

FINAL VERSION

The housing crisis is driving inequality in our communities.¹ Across Canada, Indigenous people overwhelmingly reside in urban areas including cities, towns, and rural communities. As of the last census, 79% of Indigenous people across Canada lived in urban areas and in Ontario that proportion is 85%.² The housing crisis gripping urban Indigenous communities has been overwhelming and is compounded by the collateral shocks of the pandemic including crises in mental health, violence, addiction, and the rising cost of living – all of which have had an outsized impact on Indigenous young people.

The May 2021 report of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA Committee) on urban Indigenous housing found that despite there being federal distinctions-based Indigenous housing strategies in development, “these strategies may create service gaps and not address the needs of Indigenous peoples living in urban, rural and northern areas.”³ The HUMA Committee report documents the housing shortage

¹ CMHC. (2018). ‘Too Much of a Good Thing: On Housing, Wealth and Intergenerational Inequity.’ Speaking Notes. Retrieved from: <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/media-newsroom/speeches/2018/on-housing-wealth-and-intergenerational-inequity>

² Statistics Canada, *Census 2016 Results, Data Table: Aboriginal Identity (9), Dwelling Condition (4), Registered or Treaty Indian Status (3), Residence by Aboriginal Geography (10), Age (12) and Sex (3) for the Population in Private Households* (Catalogue number 98-400-X2016164).

³ Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities. (May 2021). ‘Indigenous Housing: The Direction Home – Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities.’ House of Commons.

experienced by urban Indigenous communities and recommends the establishment of a distinct Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy as identified in the Prime Minister's most recent ministerial mandate letters.

The Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) is providing this brief in response to the federal Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs' study on the Effects of the Housing Shortage on Indigenous Peoples Across Canada. We appreciate the opportunity to have our submission considered as part of this important study.

About the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres

Founded in 1971, the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) works to support, advocate for, and build the capacity of member Friendship Centres across Ontario.

Emerging from a nation-wide, grass-roots movement dating back to the 1950's, Friendship Centres are community hubs where Indigenous people living in towns, cities, and urban centres can access culturally-based and culturally-appropriate programs and services every day. Today, Friendship Centres are dynamic hubs of economic and social convergence that create space for Indigenous communities to thrive. Friendship Centres are idea incubators for young Indigenous people attaining their education and employment goals, they are sites of cultural resurgence for Indigenous families who want to raise their children to be proud of who they are, and they are safe havens for Indigenous community members requiring supports.

In Ontario more than 85 per cent of Indigenous people live in cities, towns, and rural areas. The OFIFC is the largest urban Indigenous service network in the province supporting this vibrant, diverse, and quickly growing population through programs and initiatives that span justice, health, family support, long-term care, healing and wellness, employment and training, education, research, and more.

Friendship Centres receive their mandate from their communities, and they are inclusive of all Indigenous people – First Nation, Status/Non-Status, Métis, Inuit, and those who self-identify as Indigenous.

Friendship Centres and Housing in Context

Indigenous people gathered and made their homes in the towns and cities now settled and established as the census metropolitan areas recognized across Canada. The annexation of lands long inhabited by Indigenous communities, forced segregation, and settlement are the foundation of the history of this country. Its legacy is reflected in the housing sector today.

Government of Canada. 43rd Parliament, 2nd Session. 55. Retrieved from:
<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/HUMA/StudyActivity?studyActivityId=10983040>.

Indigenous people are overrepresented in rates of housing inadequacy and homelessness,⁴ and available data indicates that women are more likely to apply for and reside in social housing (55% of tenants of Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services are women). Indigenous people experience homelessness at a rate 11 times the national average.⁵ According to the Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer, 20% of Indigenous households that are “in housing need” are in Ontario.⁶ Homeownership rates are less than half the provincial average among Indigenous people.⁷

The HUMA Committee report on the need for an Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy documents the way anti-Indigenous racism, both systemic and explicit, affects housing inequities.⁸ Friendship Centres report that the rental market, which is becoming exceedingly unaffordable, is largely hostile to urban Indigenous renters who face high rates of overt and covert anti-Indigenous racism from landlords as well as systemic barriers to securing housing due to risk-based assessments that discriminate against low-income renters. As a result, rates of transience for Indigenous renters are high. Ontario’s Auditor General found that Ontario’s Rent Supplement Program has not been effective in securing affordable rental housing.⁹ Furthermore, housing instability and unaffordability can exacerbate child welfare issues and impede family reunification. For young people, especially Indigenous youth leaving care and young 2SLGBTQIA community members, housing insecurity is particularly acute and requires specific policy attention. The Final Report of the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls has studied the issue of housing insecurity and violence – recommendations from the Final Report and within the National Action Plans identify the need for immediate action on housing priorities in urban Indigenous communities.

Friendship Centres provide homelessness supports through the federal Reaching Home program and integrated culture-based supports. When it comes to homelessness programming, outreach, encampment supports, and wraparound services, Friendship

⁴ House of Commons. (May 2021). ‘Indigenous Housing: The Direction Home – Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities.’ 35. Retrieved from: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/432/HUMA/Reports/RP11348049/humarp05/humarp05-e.pdf>

⁵ Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force. (2022). ‘Report of the Ontario Housing Affordability Taskforce.’ 6. Retrieved from: <https://files.ontario.ca/mmah-housing-affordability-task-force-report-en-2022-02-07-v2.pdf>

⁶ Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer. (2021). ‘Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing.’ 10. Retrieved from: <https://pbo-dpb.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/artefacts/5b2407108abe40544f4c66d4a7fe08c47aecce914911c2f7e3bbcad23a2070fc>

⁷ Ontario Government. (2022). ‘Report of the Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force.’ Retrieved from: <https://files.ontario.ca/mmah-housing-affordability-task-force-report-en-2022-02-07-v2.pdf>

⁸ Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities. (May 2021). ‘Indigenous Housing: The Direction Home – Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities.’ House of Commons. Government of Canada. 43rd Parliament, 2nd Session. 25. Retrieved from: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/HUMA/StudyActivity?studyActivityId=10983040>.

⁹ Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer. (2021). ‘Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing.’ 10. Retrieved from: <https://pbo-dpb.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/artefacts/5b2407108abe40544f4c66d4a7fe08c47aecce914911c2f7e3bbcad23a2070fc>

Centres have reported approaches taken by municipalities that range from inappropriate and insufficient to significant human rights violations.

As housing becomes increasingly out of reach for the average individual, the cascading effects of exurban flight and rising housing markets is felt across urban Indigenous communities. This gravely affects affordability for Indigenous people and causes the displacement of renters as homes which contained rental units are bought up and reprofiled as single family dwellings. At the same time, climate change-induced ecological disasters including flooding, fires, and extreme weather events are causing massive waves of displacement across Friendship Centre communities, compounding the housing crisis.

Many Friendship Centres report they have had challenges working on housing priorities at the local level with municipalities, services managers and district social services administration boards (DSSABs). Provincial Indigenous-specific funding allocations for homelessness are used predominantly by municipalities with little input from the Indigenous community or transparency on how funding is meeting Indigenous community need. Direct funding of municipal actors for Indigenous housing is both inappropriate and ineffective and diminishes the impact of investments.

The 2021 HUMA Parliamentary Committee Report on Urban Indigenous Housing documented a need for “at least 22,000 subsidized Indigenous-owned and operated units over the next 10 years to meet growing housing needs for Indigenous peoples living off-reserve”¹⁰ and that a “minimum \$1 billion per year would be required to address Indigenous housing needs in Ontario”.¹¹

Friendship Centres have a vision for housing in their communities which ensures that all community members have access to housing that is safe, culturally-appropriate, affordable, and connected to community. The *United Nations’ Declaration on the Right of Indigenous People’s* Articles 21 and 23 outline the rights of Indigenous communities to develop systems that are Indigenous-controlled and which meet community housing needs. This accurately describes the work undertaken by Friendship Centres over the years which is deeply embedded in community development priorities.

Urban Indigenous Housing and COVID

During the pandemic, rates of homelessness have skyrocketed and the issue of housing inadequacy, growing outdoor encampments, and homelessness have affected Indigenous communities disproportionately. The pandemic has had a disastrous effect, evidenced by explosive 2021 point-in-time homelessness enumerations. In Sault Ste.

¹⁰ HUMA. (2021). ‘Indigenous Housing: The Direction Home.’ 27. Retrieved from: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/432/HUMA/Reports/RP11348049/humarp05/humarp05-e.pdf>

¹¹ HUMA. (2021). ‘Indigenous Housing: The Direction Home.’ 64. Retrieved from: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/432/HUMA/Reports/RP11348049/humarp05/humarp05-e.pdf>

Marie, the city found that 65 percent¹² of homeless individuals self-identified as Indigenous and in Thunder Bay the rate reached 68.3 percent.¹³ Instances of Indigenous people experiencing homelessness who have been denied shelter, refused service, and left without supports have increased, as reported by Friendship Centres. It has further been reported that the housing shortage in urban Indigenous communities contributes directly to the exacerbation of violence and inability of Indigenous people to be safe from violence. Additionally, Friendship Centres have documented the rise in mental health and addictions issues aggravated by the pandemic and intensified by the housing shortage. These issues are being reported among Indigenous young people at an alarming rate and are also contributing to student disengagement, especially among 14-19-year-olds.

Across the Friendship Centres, resources allocated for homelessness supports do not line up with the data and the results have been lethal.¹⁴ Friendship Centres have documented the rise in crises affecting Indigenous community members in the media¹⁵ throughout the pandemic. At the same time, a rise in hate crimes against Indigenous people experiencing homelessness has been widely reported, specifically in Thunder Bay¹⁶ and London.¹⁷

The HUMA Committee “heard that Friendship Centres across Canada kept their doors open, working hard to fill the gap and respond to the growing demand for services during the pandemic, often with limited resources.”¹⁸ Indigenous people in urban areas are consistently overrepresented within homelessness enumerations, yet Indigenous organisations like Friendship Centres are grossly under-resourced to address the issue. This incongruity contributes to the high rate of urban Indigenous homelessness and is a mounting challenge for Friendship Centres and urban Indigenous partners.

¹² SooToday.com. (November 2021). ‘Sault had 244 homeless persons in late October, survey finds (updated).’ Retrieved from: <https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/sault-ste-marie-had-244-homeless-persons-in-late-october-survey-finds-4789396>

¹³ District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board. (February 2022). Resolution No. 22/07.

¹⁴ La Grassa, Jennifer. (2022). ‘Windsor doesn't track deaths of people experiencing homelessness. Here's why that matters.’ CBC News. Retrieved from: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/windsor-homeless-deaths-tracking-1.6370143>

¹⁵ Hamilton Spectator. (February 2021). ‘Collaboration key to solving homelessness.’ Retrieved from: <https://www.thespec.com/opinion/contributors/2021/02/08/collaboration-key-to-solving-homelessness.html>

¹⁶ TB News Watch. (October 2020). ‘Matawa First Nations report threats to homeless people in the Parkdale area.’ Retrieved from: <https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/matawa-first-nations-report-threats-to-homeless-people-in-the-parkdale-area-4534073>

¹⁷ CBC News. (November 2021). ‘An act of violence’: Indigenous group responds to arson charges against city employee.’ CBC News Online. Retrieved from: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/an-act-of-violence-indigenous-group-responds-to-arson-charges-against-city-employee-1.6250547>

¹⁸ House of Commons. (May 2021). ‘Indigenous Housing: The Direction Home – Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities.’ 34. Retrieved from: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/432/HUMA/Reports/RP11348049/humarp05/humarp05-e.pdf>

The situation is at a tipping point and as municipalities and the provincial governments reveal themselves ill-equipped to navigate the crisis constructively, action must be taken by the federal government in conjunction with Indigenous community organisations. The issue has been compounded further by a lack of crisis mental health supports, addictions support, or community reintegration plans for people released from corrections.

Pandemic relief funding has allowed municipalities and Indigenous organisations to address some aspects of the housing issue, but the investments have been piece-meal, without guaranteed sustained funding, and do not adequately address the high degree of need at the community level. Dedicated, robust funding for urban Indigenous infrastructure is required that ensures Friendship Centre programming supports urban Indigenous communities wholistically.

Wise Practices and Approaches

The 2021 HUMA Committee Report on urban Indigenous housing found that Indigenous-led solutions to housing needs are the best answer to the housing crisis, but Indigenous housing providers are inadequately resourced to implement housing solutions.¹⁹ The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls identified the need for Indigenous-designed and developed housing that meets community needs.

Friendship Centres have long played an important role in housing provision, homelessness services, and wraparound culture-based programming that is vital to housing stability and community wellbeing. The OFIFC is also a Director Member Organization of the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS), the largest Indigenous housing provider in Ontario. Friendship Centres and OAHS play a significant role within the housing landscape and have introduced new and innovative housing solutions including transitional housing projects, the Urban Indigenous Homeward Bound program, and new supportive housing models designed through community-centred processes.

Across the province, Friendship Centres in Ontario are working toward housing solutions while facing significant obstructions to innovation. In key Friendship Centre communities, transitional housing developments have been established and are currently underway which endeavour to support Indigenous people who are chronically underhoused and transitioning out of institutional settings and systems. These projects have an outsized impact at the community level but encounter consistent barriers to advancement. Friendship Centres face extreme anti-Indigenous NIMBYism, antagonism from city and town councils, insufficient consultation or collaboration, and in some instances, complete disregard. In many instances, municipal development processes

¹⁹ Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities. (May 2021). 'Indigenous Housing: The Direction Home – Report of the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities.' House of Commons. Government of Canada. 43rd Parliament, 2nd Session. Retrieved from: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Committees/en/HUMA/StudyActivity?studyActivityId=10983040>

concerning Indigenous housing initiatives such as public consultations, municipal re-zoning processes, and appeals have experienced protracted (years-long) delays due in large part to explicit and implicit anti-Indigenous NIMBYism. The absence of supports for community and transitional housing – which require robust and sustained capacity and operating funding in order to initiate construction – have caused multiple housing developments to stall or be cancelled. These challenges have limited the reach of OAHS and Friendship Centres’ potential as partners in addressing the housing crisis.

The OFIFC’s Urban Indigenous Homeward Bound Program (UIHB) is an employment and training program that includes housing stability as a main component of the initiative. Participants in the program, who are Indigenous sole-parent women, are provided housing stabilization supports while they access training and post-secondary education. Upon completion of the program, participants have the skills to enter a career in a field that will provide a decent living wage and into a permanent housing situation. A process evaluation of the program has revealed that UIHB has been a positive life-changing program for participants who have experienced violence or are fleeing violent situations. The OFIFC has advocated for the expansion of UIHB as a key pillar in response to the National Inquiry into MMIWG, recognizing that the Inquiry found that economic marginalization and exclusion, including the lack of adequate housing, featured prominently as a root cause of violence²⁰ and that the program supports a high number of Indigenous women and children who have experienced or are fleeing violence. The program is changing Indigenous women’s lives and will have a marked impact on Indigenous young people’s futures, lifting families out of poverty.²¹

Beyond these specific wise practices, there is a sustained need for culture-based programming, initiatives, and Friendship Centre involvement in community development and planning processes. Under current Friendship Centre funding models, the potential for capacity building is severely limited and misaligned with the roles, responsibilities, and opportunities that Friendship Centres seize at the community-level. To adequately serve growing urban Indigenous communities, a distinct Indigenous Friendship Centre Program that is designed, delivered, and managed by the Friendship Centre Movement is required. Such a program should be distinct from the Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP) and raise the bar for urban Indigenous service delivery. A dedicated national Indigenous Friendship Centre program will aim to support strong and prosperous urban Indigenous communities through a new funding model that matches the prominence of, and impact that the Friendship Centres make in their communities. The OFFIC believes that an Indigenous Friendship Centre program that is distinct from the UPIP will better reflect the unique and pivotal role that Friendship Centres play in urban Indigenous communities.

²⁰ The Final Report for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. (2019). Volume 1a. (439-445) Accessed: https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Final_Report_Vol_1a.pdf

²¹ Raynard, Kelsey. (2022). ‘Urban Indigenous Homeward Bound program celebrates first graduates.’ Kenora Miner News. Retrieved from: <https://www.kenoraminerandnews.com/news/local-news/urban-indigenous-homeward-bound-program-celebrates-first-graduates>

Friendship Centres and other urban Indigenous organisations and communities have been instrumental in developing operating standards and norms around the provision of services and programs. Yet, many urban Indigenous communities still face unacceptable service gaps, insufficient core and operating funding, and social and economic disparities. The National Inquiry's Final Report found that funding that is insufficient, short-term or time-limited, represents a violation of inherent rights to self-governance.²² The failure to provide funding equitably, substantively, and stably harms our communities. A December 2020 Parliamentary background paper on services for Indigenous people living in urban areas identified large service gaps, jurisdictional disputes, and chronic underfunding as persistent issues affecting Indigenous communities.²³ The MMIWG Urban Action Plan identified as an immediate priority the provision of:

“sustainable and long-term/evergreen core funding for urban Indigenous organizations and programs relevant to the safety of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people”.²⁴

This includes dependable and stabilized supports toward the development of our own Indigenous-led solutions to the housing crisis, to health and healing, and to community development. Friendship Centres, as urban Indigenous community hubs, offer opportunities for new approaches to safety and healing that are grounded in Indigenous cultures, focused on prevention and intervention, and adaptable to community needs.

Additionally, the introduction of a universal guaranteed basic income across Canada remains a critical Call for Justice of the National Inquiry into MMIWG²⁵ that the OFIFC recommends as a federal priority to couple with housing supports in addressing deeply entrenched socio-economic barriers to safety, wellbeing, and prosperity. Through living wage and decent work legislation, coupled with universal basic income, Indigenous families, seniors, and young people can be lifted out of poverty and supported to be connected to community.

A Strategic Way Forward

The OFIFC has been working in solidarity with Indigenous partner organisations from across Canada on the establishment of an Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy that is Indigenous-governed and -led and supports swift action on the housing crisis. We strongly support a national body that is explicitly Indigenous-

²² The Final Report for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. (2019). Volume 1a. 581. Accessed: https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Final_Report_Vol_1a.pdf

²³ Collier, Brittany. (December 2020). ‘Services for Indigenous People Living in Urban Areas.’ Library of Parliament, Ottawa. No. 2020-66-E. Retrieved from: <https://lop.parl.ca/staticfiles/PublicWebsite/Home/ResearchPublications/BackgroundPapers/PDF/2020-66-e.pdf>

²⁴ MMIWG2S+ National Action Plan. (2021). ‘Urban Path to Reclaiming Power and Place, Regardless of Residency.’ 51. Retrieved from: https://mmiwg2splus-nationalactionplan.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/NAP-Urban-Framework_EN.pdf

²⁵ See Call For Justice 4.5. National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. (2019). ‘Calls for Justice.’ 11. Retrieved from: <https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Calls-Web-Version-EN.docx>

governed and managed and developed in the spirit of Articles 21 & 23 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) and in response to the recommendations of the Final Report of the National Inquiry on MMIWG.

It is critical for the federal government to understand that the establishment of an Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy must be at arm's length of government including the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). For decades the CMHC has undermined the self-determination of urban Indigenous communities and failed to address housing needs in our communities. More recently, the housing supply programs under the National Housing Strategy administered by CMHC have been found to “not, for the most part, meet the needs of those in core housing need”²⁶ – a group that disproportionately includes Indigenous people. In an era of truth and reconciliation and in the face of the housing and climate crises, we can no longer be bystanders to decision-making about our communities' wellbeing.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

Housing is a human right and permanently affordable, safe, and community-connected housing is essential to wellbeing, safety, and access to opportunity in under-served urban Indigenous communities. A new federal approach to urban, rural and northern Indigenous housing is needed that is bold, transformative, and guided by our communities.

As the Standing Committee considers the effects of the housing shortage on Indigenous peoples across Canada, the OFIFC recommends championing an approach that is in line with recommendations of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ National Action Plan, which identified the lack of federal relationship with urban Indigenous communities as a damaging and flawed approach, stating that:

Reconciliation cannot be achieved by continuing to rely on outmoded approaches that systematically undermine and ignore the presence of diverse and growing urban Indigenous communities.²⁷

The OFIFC recommends federal action which respects the diversity of Indigenous people and communities and the importance of building new relationships at the federal level in resistance to colonial constructs.

As the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs completes its study, it is recommended that Canada:

²⁶ National Housing Council. 2022. 'Analysis of Affordable Housing Supply Created by Unilateral National Housing Strategy Programs – Research Report.' 5; 35. Retrieved from: <https://assets.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/sites/place-to-call-home/pdfs/analysis-affordable-housing-supply-created-unilateral-nhs-programs-en.pdf>

²⁷ MMIWG2S+ National Action Plan. (2021). 'Urban Path to Reclaiming Power and Place, Regardless of Residency.' 78. Retrieved from: https://mmiwg2splus-nationalactionplan.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/NAP-Urban-Framework_EN.pdf

- Implement an Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy nationally by supporting Indigenous partners to develop a strategy that is Indigenous-led, governed, and controlled and responds to community needs by:
 - delivering on the promise to administer and fund this critical infrastructure as expeditiously as possible;
 - ensuring co-development;
 - fully supporting Indigenous-led design, delivery, and ownership;
 - moving forward with a plan for an Indigenous-controlled interim delivery organization and funding; and
 - removing barriers that impede progress.
- Ensure adequate and sustained funding is dedicated to urban, rural, and northern Indigenous housing needs as documented in the HUMA report and identified by Indigenous communities and organisations.
- Reinstatement of federal evergreen core funding to Friendship Centres through the implementation of a new Indigenous Friendship Centre Program that is distinct from the Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples program and that is designed, delivered, and managed by the Friendship Centre Movement.
- Reorient the federal relationship with Indigenous people to one in which UNDRIP serves as the basis for any federal framework regarding the recognition and implementation of Indigenous rights, recognising the rights of urban Indigenous communities and organisations.
- Support Bill C-223, *A National Framework for a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income Act*²⁸ and the implementation of a national universal guaranteed basic income program to address deeply entrenched socio-economic circumstances which remain barriers to safety, health, wellbeing, and community connection.

²⁸ Parliament of Canada. (December 2021). 'Bill C-223 An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income.' 44th Parliament, 1st session. Retrieved from: <https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/44-1/c-223>