BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

HOUSING AND HEALTH FORUM

Event Report

Prepared by Alejandra Fonseca,
Penelope Sanz, Brooke Thompson
and Katie Thompson

Version 5. March 12th, 2025

FIRST NATIONS & MÉTIS

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Table of Contents

Project Overview

The built environment - buildings, road systems, and other infrastructure – are a result of choices in planning that can help or hinder well-being. Within Indigenous communities in Canada, the built environment has been affected by inequities in the provision, design, maintenance, and replacement of housing when compared to non-Indigenous areas. This disparity has led to significant social, cultural, and health impacts. To learn more about barriers to creating a robust Indigenous built environment and find levers for change, our research group held conversations with various First Nations communities in Saskatchewan. The First Nations & Métis Health and Housing Forum, held on November 21 st , 2023, at Wanuskewin Heritage Park, to facilitate knowledge-to-action as determined by First Nations people.

Brief Summary of the Day

The meeting provided an opportunity for researchers, industry partners, and local/provincial/federal policy makers to listen to First Nations and Métis community members about their lived experiences and preferred pathways for changing the built environment to reflect Indigenous ways and improve health outcomes.

The research team facilitated conversations on known strengths, promising practices, and barriers to a healthy built environment as identified by First Nations and Métis people from across the province. Through this insight, we are developing a framework for knowledge blending, policy action, research, and engagement driven by First Nations and Métis community members, professional builders, policy makers, and researchers working on the built environment.

Forum Overview

The event followed a community-based participatory approach drawn from conversations and several site visits with First Nations, Tribal Councils and Housing Directors, and staff. These discussions were held throughout summer and fall 2023 to explore issues and draw strength-based examples of how different First Nations organize and support their housing portfolios. From these conversations and with assistance of an external consultant who is knowledgeable about First Nations housing, four major themes were crystallized: 1) Policy and Governance, 2) Training and Transition 3) Asset Management and 4) Builds and Procurement. These four themes provided structure for the day. You can find the table guides in the appendix.
 The event gathered different stakeholders including researchers, industry partners, and governmental partners to listen to First Nations and Métis community members about their lived experiences and preferred pathways for reflecting Indigenous ways in the built environment. Discussions followed a strength-based approach where conversations revolved around "good stories" of what has worked or is working on housing policies, programs and interventions (Bryant et.al, 2021).

Attendees at the event included representatives from First Nations communities, businesses, society partners, community partners, students, academics, and government. Following a round table discussion approach, participants were assigned to different tables to ensure a multi-lens perspective in the discussions.

Forum Overview

A total of 12 in-person tables and one online table were hosted in the forum. Each table consisted of 5-7 representatives, one table leader and 1-2 note-takers. Table leaders were part of our research team and were responsible for guiding the table discussions using the four themes. The note-takers were responsible for documenting the main points of the table discussions and high-level notes (i.e. short main points with no personal stories or in-depth information) to be synthesized in real time and used as the basis for the graphic recording.

108 attendees

Summary of Attendees

36 Community Members

From 15 First Nation Communities

13 Industry Partners

9 Government Members

From 3 Government Organizations

39 Academic Researchers

11 Organization Partners

Forum Conversations

The main themes of the forum were based on several site visits and conversations with First Nations Tribal Councils and Housing Directors and Staff beginning of Spring 2023.

Key Themes:
- Policy & Governance
- Training & Transition
- Builds & Procurement
- Asset Management

- **Policy and Governance:** Governance means who gets to decide what. Policy flows from governance and refers to the guides, rules, agreements and requirements created by government institutions and First Nations communities. Government policies guide financial programs, planning, rules, and allocations for housing. First Nations create housing policies to address complex housing issues such as financial and housing management, housing allocation, ownership and tenancy, and evictions.

- **Training and Transition:** Training and Transition refers to capacity for housing, such as how to hire, train, mentor, and support housing managers and staff to feel comfortable and well-equipped to work in housing. It can also include establishing paths for different housing career opportunities, such as skill or trades development. Training can also refer to tenant education for housing. Good training and transition are important to having a strong housing programs.

Forum Conversations

- **Asset Management:** Asset management refers to the day-to-day administration of housing programs. This includes planning and oversight for housing maintenance, insurance, tenant relations, administration, upgrades and renovations, and supporting new builds. A key element is data management, keeping track of all reserve assets and their condition, infrastructure connections, upgrades, and tenants. Asset management can also include planning or upgrading to follow energy-efficient practices and support occupants' health. It's related to training and transition because housing staff (housing directors, coordinators, managers, administrators) are also assets.

- **Builds and Procurement:** Builds and Procurement refer to the strengths and challenges of larger-scale projects related to building and maintaining quality houses on-reserve to accommodate community needs. This theme includes issues related to construction, infrastructure, tendering, planning, contractor and business relationships for both renovation and new builds. It can also include factors that influence builds and procurement, including building codes and opportunities for energy-efficiency.
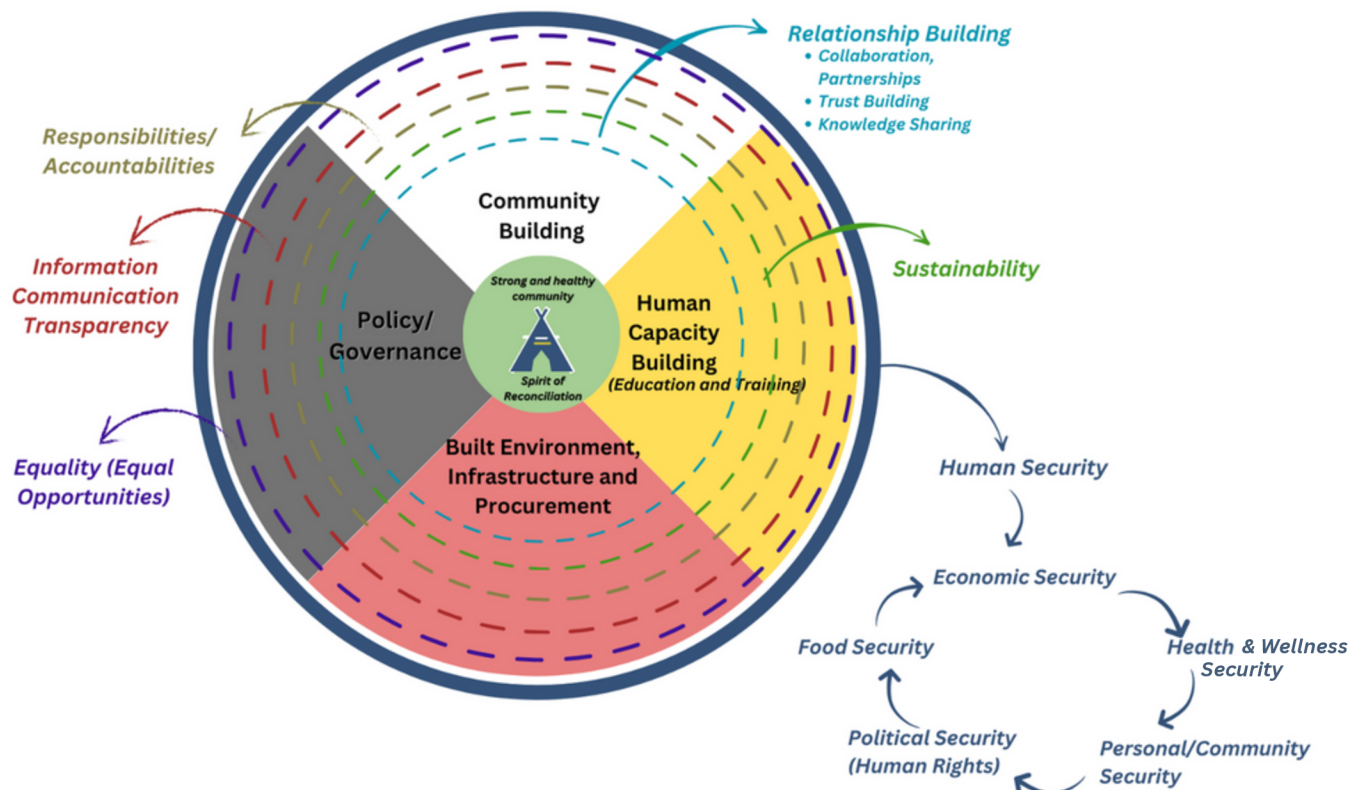
Knowledge-to-Action Framework

In processing what was said in the table conversations, the participants' narratives and comments were categorized in terms of goals and/or aspirations, gaps/barriers, conditions and realities on the ground, and recommendations. At the outset, the discussions show how the four themes interconnect and overlap which affirm economic, socio-political, and cultural ramifications and complexities of First Nations and Métis' housing and built environment. The question "What is needed to make a house a home (Table 1, Asset Management)?" and the statement "never just about the house, it's about the entire community" (Table 2) that jumpstarted the conceptualization of this knowledge-to-action framework (see Figure 1). This framework is grounded on the culture, values and virtues of First Nations and Métis peoples and adheres to the "nothing about us, without us" principle, which relies on the active involvement of the communities in the planning of strategies and policies that affect their lives (United Nations, 2004).

The knowledge-to-action framework is anchored on the First Nations' sacred circle, which represents the totality of the universe where everything is in the circle and the unity of all things in the universe (Regnier, 1994, p. 132). Its cyclic patterns, as viewed by the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, speak of coming to wholeness, interdependence, balance, and relational processes. In "making a house-a-home", the sacred circle then becomes integral. A home is where life happens such as birth/infancy, youth, adulthood, elder/death). It is a site/place for healing and nurturing the body, spirit and soul. It is where Indigenous culture is transmitted; Indigenous identities are affirmed and strengthened. Home is also where kinships and relationships are established.

Knowledge-to-Action Framework

Thus, a home from the First Nations and Métis' perspectives requires a new way of thinking and engagements that not only involve the provision of materials, design and furnishings. It needs everyone involved to appreciate and understand the Indigenous sacred circle and adopt a "two-eyed seeing" (Etuaptmumk in Mi'kmaw) approach which embraces "learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of mainstream knowledges and ways of knowing, and to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all," (Elder Dr. Albert Marshall).

WHAT MAKES A HOUSE A HOME?

- Relationship Building
  - Collaboration, Partnerships
  - Trust Building
  - Knowledge Sharing

Responsibilities/ Accountabilities

Information Communication Transparency

Equality (Equal Opportunities)

Community Building

Strong and healthy community

Spirit of Reconciliation

Policy/ Governance

Human Capacity Building (Education and Training)

Built Environment, Infrastructure and Procurement

Sustainability

Human Security

Economic Security

Food Security

Health & Wellness Security

Political Security (Human Rights)

Personal/Community Security

Knowledge-to-Action Framework

The Core:

The spirit of reconciliation should be the foundation of the different economic, socio-political, and cultural ramifications that define a home and ensure strong and healthy communities.

- **Culture and Identity**

Relationship with the land is key in reaffirming identity and selves, and healing through culture and relationships. Also, First Nations participants shared that access to adequate, safe, and sustainable housing is crucial in supporting a sense of belongingness and security. In turn, it will bring families together to work towards mental health and emotional well-being, celebrate their culture and encourage pride and identity, which will continue to forge a strong community over time. As pointed out in the table conversations, it was "never just about the house, it's about the entire community".

- **Truth and Reconciliation: Reconciliation Requires Housing**

Reconciliation through provision and support of First Nations' housing and the built environment can only be achieved through shared strength and humanity suggesting a "two-eyed seeing" approach as mentioned above. An example from the conversations is that external parties (e.g., contractors, government, academic, civil society representatives) working on housing and the built environment must respect and acknowledge the unique cultures, beliefs histories, rights, laws and governments of First Nations and Métis.

Knowledge-to-Action Framework

External parties must not only work in accordance with the specific rights, interests, priorities, and concerns of Indigenous groups through a nation-to-nation approach; but also, be mindful of building meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities including ensuring that Indigenous cultures, diversity, protocols, needs, and experiences are respected and nurtured.

- **Human security**

This knowledge-to-action framework recognizes the intersection of human development and human security. Thus, it is also focused on creating fair opportunities and choices for all people. Based on participant narratives, ensuring First Nations and Métis' access to adequate housing entails a holistic effort that includes economic security, health and well-being, personal/community security, political security (i.e., respect for basic human rights and Indigenous Peoples rights) and food security. Such an effort must involve the entire community, partnerships, and relationships with external parties.

Knowledge-to-Action Framework

Four Components:

- **Community building**

From the day conversations with communities, for a house to become a home, it is "never just about the housing there is much more that goes into the health and well-being of the Nations such as community, the land, the animals" (table conversations). Conversations reflected community building by alluding to the need to promote connections, participation, empowerment, advocacy, and spaces that contribute to the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health of communities.

Given this, empowerment is needed for community members to make decisions about their own homes to support a sense of ownership and pride; "When people own their own homes, they can cultivate their own children and their own identity and feel better about themselves and really create the family mechanism to cultivate family and wellness and to help create a way of life for the children." (table conversations). To support healthy communities, other factors mentioned were environmental projects such as waste management initiatives, and recreational programs that promote mental health and wellness.

Knowledge-to-Action Framework

- **Human Capacity Building (Education and Training)**

Capacity Building refers to the process of teaching and training individuals the skills and abilities necessary to strengthen and ensure a healthy built environment. The discussions pointed to the need to conduct education and training practices with two major groups: First Nation and Métis communities and non-Indigenous groups. Examples from the discussions included designing and offering programs to community members to develop financial literacy, "there needs to be better information and training for how to finance and stay on top of the information" (table conversations), and conduct writing workshops for grants applications.

Mentorship programs were also identified as key for First Nation communities. A table suggestion was housing staff to undergo formal mentorship where departing employees stay for a specific period while incoming staff learn how to best conduct the duties and responsibilities of the job. Another key component of education/training practices for First Nations communities was tenant education. This type of program would focus on offering classes on how to maintain things around the house (how to look after your furnace, how to address mould, what to do for a house in each season, how to change lightbulbs, and turn off valves, etc.)

Education for non-Indigenous industry and community partners would be focused more on learning the history of Indigenous Peoples in Canada, cultural sensitivity and "the culture beyond First Nations People [with lessons on] the hidden genocide (residential schools)" (table conversations).

Knowledge-to-Action Framework

- **Built Environment, Infrastructure and Procurement**

The built environment refers to the buildings, road systems, and other infrastructure that affect individuals' well-being. In our context, it also refers to subdivisions and basic facilities, services and installations needed for a community to function. The table discussions can be summarized into two main types of built environment: 1) Infrastructure environments and 2) Digital environments.

Infrastructure environments such as housing conditions and housing capacity can impact communities' health. Some members described this as "some houses are very old with no renovations or inspections despite mould, asbestos, leaks and structural deficits" (table conversations). When there aren't enough houses, it can affect community cohesion. As one participant explained: "we get three houses each year, and so when only three houses (were only sic) given, then people are unhappy if they didn't get it." (table conversations). The conversations reiterated an interest for future projects where energy efficient houses, solar panels and self-sustained energy are a good option for standard housing. Accessibility to building materials and road maintenance can be challenges to communities, especially for communities up north, leading to increased prices to construct and maintain infrastructure. Another point raised was the possibility of programs that re-purpose elements from the built environment addressing community's needs. For instance, the "re- purposing of some children ramps that when the family moves, the ramps are donated to an elder to use" (table conversations).

Knowledge-to-Action Framework

Digital environments comprise of all digital-related aspects such as devices, computers, programming and information systems and networks that connect them (Syamimi Masrani & Nik Husain, 2022). Community members expressed the importance of developing the digital environment to improve housing administration processes. Some examples discussed were software to keep track of funds spent and work done on each house, systems that monitor the houses that need upkeep and allow reporting of maintenance issues online and electronic pins in all Indigenous houses on reserve to make service and safety assistance easier.

Knowledge-to-Action Framework

- **Policy and Governance**

Policies are the guidelines to plan and conduct housing programs. However, "policies need to come from the community" (table conversations). Policies need to consider community needs, after all "it is never just about the house, it's about the entire community" (table conversations). Thus, making community-based participatory approaches necessary in policy and government systems. Policies are the vehicle to address complex housing issues and should be developed as an interdisciplinary team with different departments and members of the community. Having different perspectives and lived experiences would aid in the development of policies specific to different contexts supporting a proactive approach instead of a reactive one.

"We want to make a foundational change, but we are often stuck reacting to emergency situations and using band aid solutions instead of forward based upstream planning" (table conversations).

Conversations highlighted the importance of working together with other communities. Noting that even though each community is unique, there are similar goals between communities. A broader collective policy that is regularly reviewed and clearly defined can be helpful to share knowledge and strengthen collaboration between bands.

Knowledge-to-Action Framework

Underpinning operational principles

These principles refer to conversational topics that we identified as fundamental in the framework due to their mention as necessary in the four main themes during the table conversations at the forum.

- **Relationship building and trust-building includes knowledge sharing.**

The importance of relationship building was emphasized during the table discussions. Collaboration and support were the main components mentioned in relationships. Members of the communities described the significance of relationship building in 5 main instances: 1) Relationship with the land, 2) Relationship with community members, 3) Collaboration with and between housing staff and leadership, 4) Partnerships with corporations and governmental organizations and 5) Alliances with academic institutions.

In creating healthy communities, the significance of continually building a relationship with the land was stressed to affirm and strengthen Indigenous identities. As a participant emphasized, "It is never just about the housing, much more goes into the health and well-being of the nations such as community, the land, the animals" (table discussion).

Knowledge-to-Action Framework

Relationship building with community members is also crucial. First Nations and Métis' Housing staff should "know the community and their needs. Get to know the people so that the housing can meet the communities' unique needs, this could be family size, illnesses, disabilities, weather/climate, and special needs people" (table conversations).

Collaboration with and between housing staff is reflected in tenants, housing coordinator, manager, maintenance staff and council working together to support the housing departments and portfolios. Partnerships should go further than transactions of services and goods, it should reflect a deeper level of trust and reliability between corporations, governmental organizations, and communities. Alliances with universities can aid in consultation processes and in the development of policies and procedures that support Indigenous communities.

Knowledge-to-Action Framework

- **Sustainability**

Discussions centered around three main aspects of sustainability. The first one revolved around environmental sustainability. Specifically, the possibility of designing and building energy-efficient housing from self-sustained energy sources, and setting in place teaching practices with young kids to plan and develop recycling programs. The second one referred to economic sustainability, where members expressed their desire to meet the economic needs of the communities such as housing developments while creating jobs and fostering economic growth.

"We need to try our best to avoid hiring out of the community, build sustainable communities and draw on resources/tradespeople that are already there" (table conversations). Another point expressed was the desire to ensure that the nations "use limited resources efficiently" by "constructing projects after having solid plans in place" (table conversations).

The third one refers to funding sustainability. Currently, Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) uses guidelines designed a few decades ago to calculate the funding allocation for First Nations' housing. These guidelines can be restrictive, and might not reflect the current prices and processes necessary to guarantee adequate housing in First Nation communities.

Knowledge-to-Action Framework

- **Responsibility and Accountability**

This principle was identified during the conversations as 1) the responsibilities of the tenants, housing staff, and leadership, and 2) the responsibilities of contractors. Discussions lead to sharing of some difficulties encountered in past experiences if there are no clear policies on responsibilities. To address this issue, a possible solution mentioned was to encourage "rules and responsibilities of the tenant, making clear what are the obligations for the tenants, homeowners, housing managers and council." (table conversations). Agreements and policies would ensure proper maintenance of the properties. Contractors should also follow agreements that require high levels of accountability to guarantee safe and quality housing.

To start the housing policy process, one recommendation suggested was to follow a participatory approach where community members, housing staff, and council can share their perspectives to develop collaboratively housing responsibilities and policies.
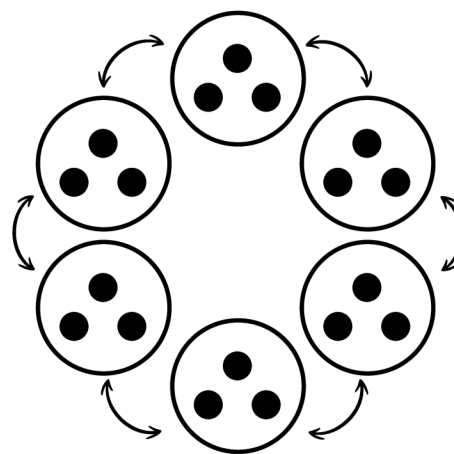
Knowledge-to-Action Framework

- **Communication, information and transparency**

 Another idea identified as fundamental was communication. This was reflected in two main categories: intra- and inter-communication. Intra-communication refers to facilitating and promoting regular communication within communities. Intercommunication refers to communication between First Nations communities, businesses, industry, or government agencies. Discussions revolved around increasing communication between community members to support the identification of needs to tailor specific policies to address any gaps. Following a central element in the conversations of "communication as part of the spirit of truth and reconciliation" (table conversations) , inter-communication between Nations and partners can build transparency and continuity of trust between Nations and improve accountability with industry partners, government, and businesses.
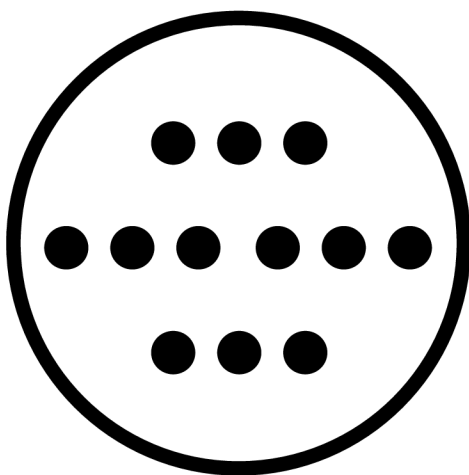
Intracommunication   *Intercommunication*

Knowledge-to-Action Framework

- **Equality**

Equality, defined as a right of people to be treated fairly and have the same opportunities, was expressed in three predominant areas: 1) Governance, 2) Economic Inequity and 3) Social inequity. Differences in governance between First Nation communities were mentioned. Some communities noted that they did not have a defined structure to ensure open and equitable decision-making processes. To approach this issue, sharing knowledge and examples of good policies and governing practices between Indigenous communities can aid in establishing formal governance procedures. "Each community is unique, but we are trying to achieve similar goals, so (there) should have an overarching policy that is regularly reviewed and clearly defined" (table conversations).
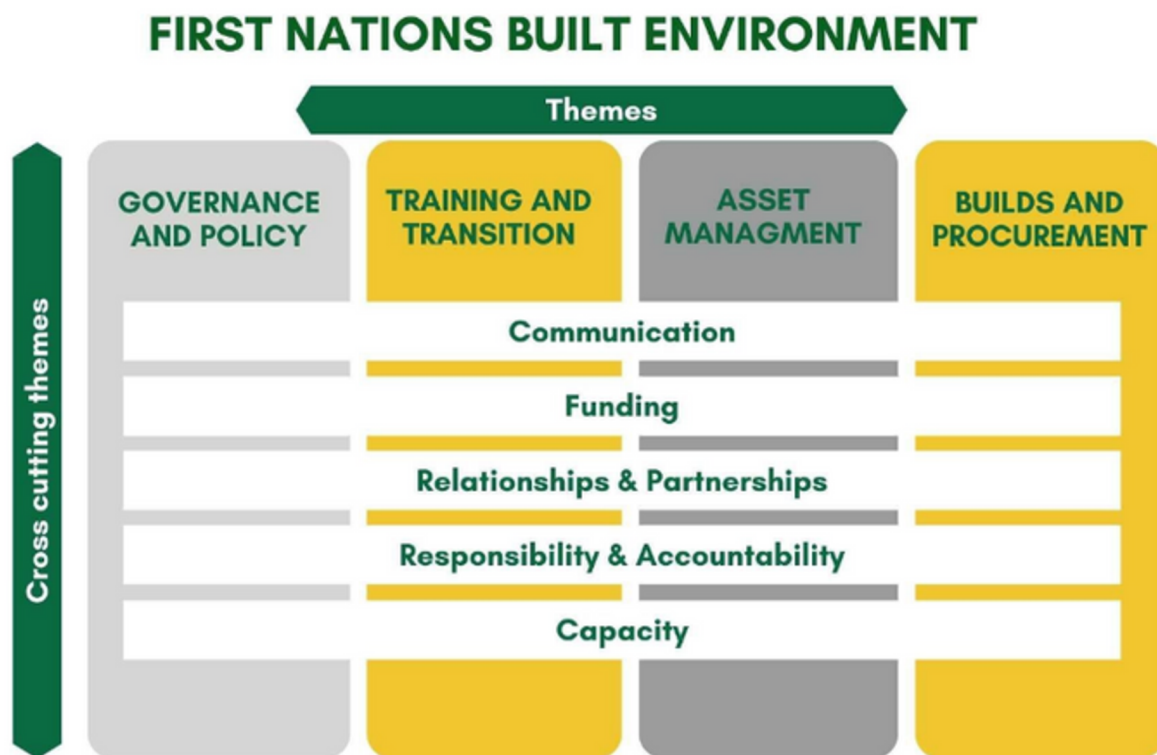
Economic inequity was discussed as wage disparity, the absence of profitable opportunities for First Nation communities whose land is being used for the mining industry and the scarce funding available for First Nations' housing. Furthermore, there is an additional disparity between smaller First Nations' bands and large bands. Smaller communities have more difficulties obtaining funding and might need specific polices to decrease the economic inequity that they face.

Knowledge-to-Action Framework

Social Inequity has massively impacted housing among First Nation communities. Systemic racism was mentioned during the discussions: "We need to keep the impacts of systemic racism in mind as contractors and workers may have a more negative view and feel they need to work less hard as it is just an Indigenous reserve" (table conversations). Social inequity can also be seen in the known disparity in access to healthcare and mental health services. Additionally, research has shown the connection between inadequate housing and health outcomes. Thus, becoming a spiral, with poor health outcomes leading to more housing instability since "people need to be able to maintain their own house, but these issues make it impossible." (table conversations).
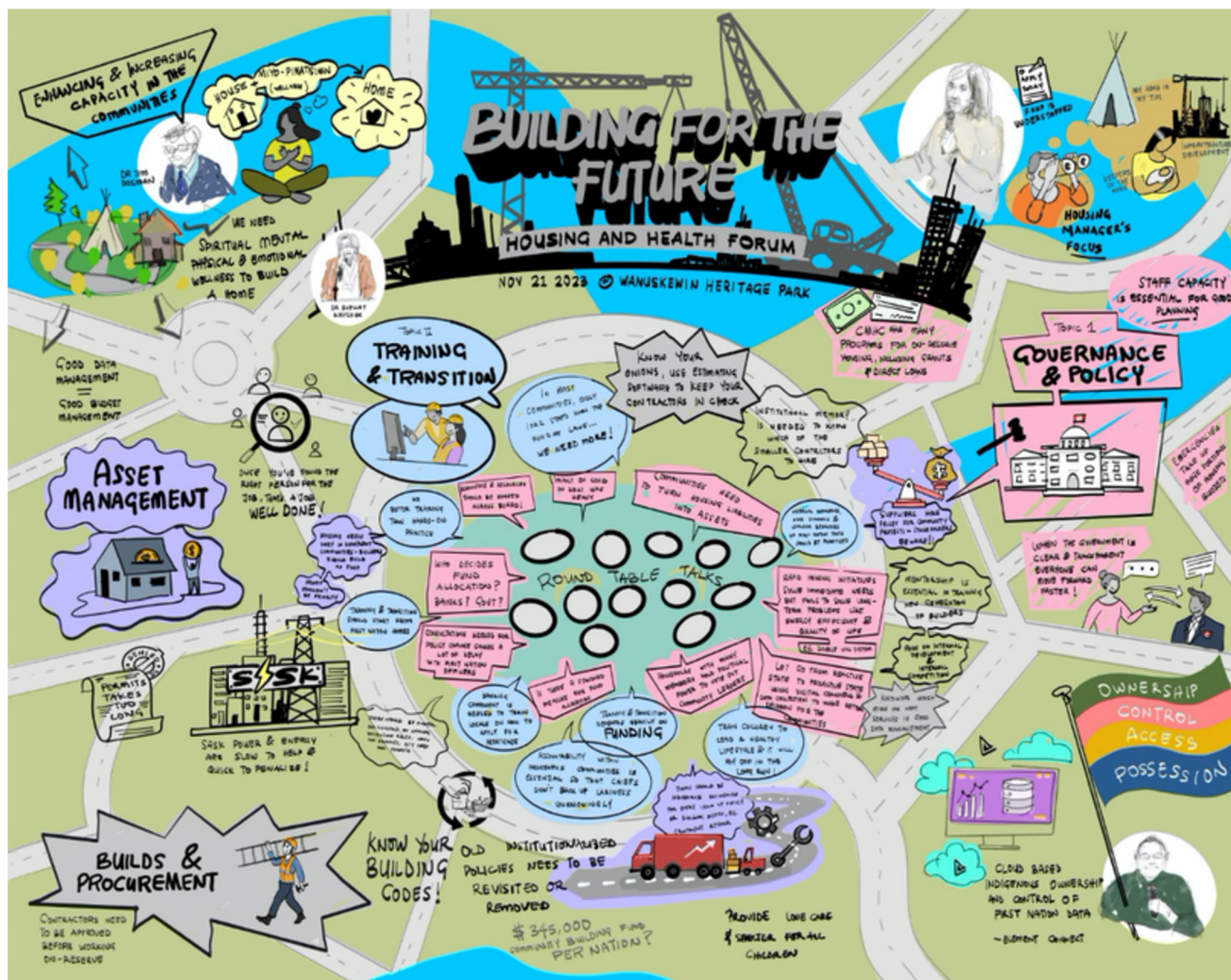
Outputs

In addition to our knowledge-to-action framework as described above, an additional house and health working framework was produced. This framework represents the four original themes from the community conversations, intersected with the cross-cutting themes identified in the table conversations at the event. Many of the same principles found above can be viewed here.

FIRST NATIONS BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Themes

| GOVERNANCE AND POLICY | TRAINING AND TRANSITION | ASSET MANAGMENT | BUILDS AND PROCUREMENT |

Cross cutting themes

- Communication
- Funding
- Relationships & Partnerships
- Responsibility & Accountability
- Capacity

In continued consultation with community members, our research team is looking to build a digital hub (with printable PDF components) that includes processes to support housing builds and housing maintenance, products, programs, and training opportunities to support the built environment. This hub and its products will serve as a freely available resource to help First Nation communities to increase capacity to support their built environment.

Outputs: Graphic Recordings

Some key results of our event consist of art outputs such as sculptures, paintings, and graphic recordings. A graphic recording is an illustration of ideas in real-time created during a meeting. These art outputs can serve as a source for the First Nations to identify what First Nations' people identified as needed to increase capacity to address housing and housing maintenance processes on reserve in Saskatchewan.
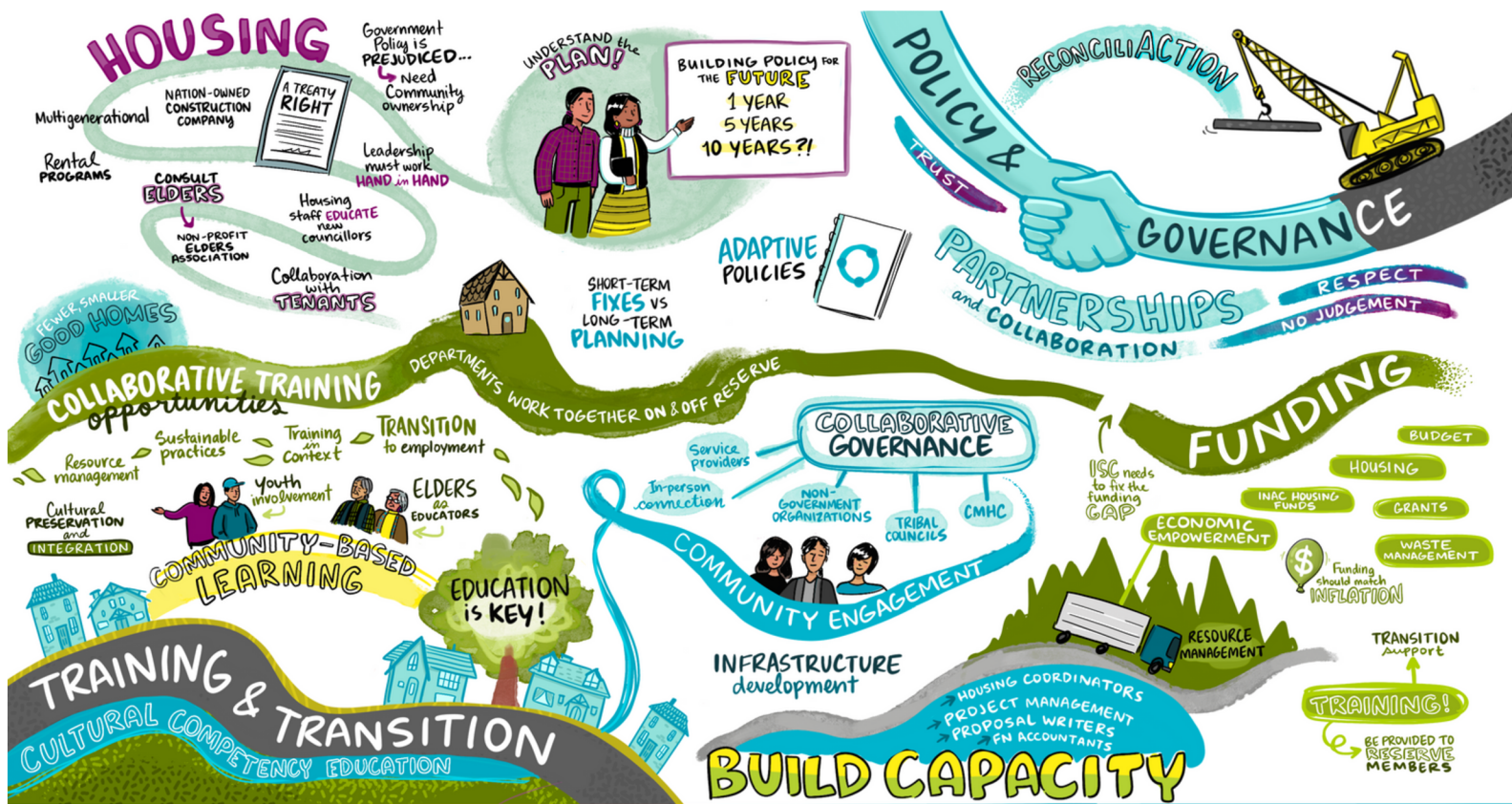
Outputs: Graphic Recordings

The graphic recording below was conducted by Fuselight Creative, a graphical recording contractor, with extensive experience in the focus areas of climate science, health care and human rights, and Indigenous gatherings. The use of graphic recording is in response to First Nations partners wishes to have accessible outputs from research. Following the structure for the day, the graphic recording was conducted in two major sessions. The first session covered the Policy/Governance and Training/Transition themes and the second session the Builds/Procurement and Asset Management themes. These graphic recordings are available for download on our website.

As the graphic recording was drawn, it was captured in video. That video output was put together with a song by Cree-Dene artist Sherryl Sewepagaham entitled Kahkiyaw Oskâyak, as sung by the Greystone Singers of the University of Saskatchewan, conducted by Dr. Jennifer Lang. The video can be viewed on YouTube: https://youtu.be/MyFt5NM6JBo?si=EGCR_nkLelJO432c.

Outputs: Graphic Recordings

Fuselight: Graphic Recording

Outputs: Graphic Recordings
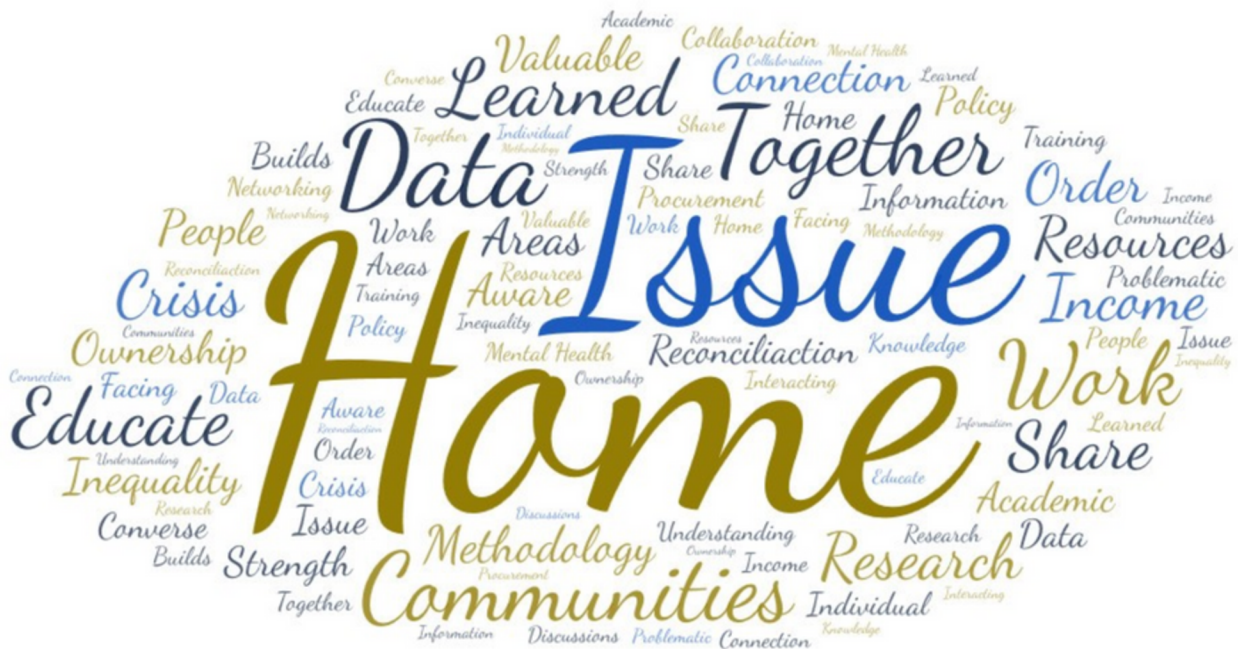

Fuselight: Graphic Recording

Evaluation Forms

As part of our event, we collected evaluation forms from community members to identify possible next steps following the forum. The evaluation forms contained three open ended questions. 1) What is your take home message?, 2) What do you consider to be the best part of today's forum? and 3) What would you like to see happen? Next steps?.

We collected a total of 19 responses, we compiled them into a document. We synthesized the responses into a word cloud. which is a visual representation of the most important words and their frequency in a document (Heimerl et.al, 2014).

1. **What is your take home message?**

Evaluation Forms

We confirmed that housing is a very important issue for First Nations communities, and we identified the importance of making a house a home.

2. What do you consider to be the best part of today's forum?

Attendees described that the best part of the event was to be able to network and work with other people. They stated that it was enlightening to realize that they have similar issues.

Evaluation Forms

3. What would you like to see happen? Next steps?

Communities want to see results, get involved in the discussions, and have additional gatherings to communicate results.

Forum Agenda

REGISTRATION (8:15 - 8:45)

8:45	**Opening Prayer**
8:55	**Tansi (Welcome) from the Communities and CCRAH (USask)**
9:00 - 9:20	**Ongoing relationship between CCRAH and First Nations Connection between house and health** Dr. Shelley Kirychuk and Dr. Jim Dosman
9:20 - 9:30	**Setting the stage for the day** Desired Outcomes and the process for each of the topic areas
9:30 - 10:30	**Topic 1 – Policy & Governance** Sharing conversations – good practices and examples

Health Break (10:30 - 10:45)

10:45 - 11:45	**Topic 2 – Training & Transition** Sharing conversations – good practices and examples

Lunch (11:45 - 1:00) - Keynote Speakers

1:00 - 2:00	**Topic 3 – Asset Management (Inventory/Maintenance & Renovations/Scheduling)**
2:00 - 3:00	**Topic 4 – Builds & Procurement**

Health Break (3:00 - 3:15)

WRAP-UP/NEXT STEPS/DOOR PRIZES/CLOSING PRAYER (3:15 – 4:00)

Forum Attendees

FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES		
Beardy's and Okemasis Cree Nation	James Smith Cree Nation	Montreal Lake Cree Nation
Little Red River Reserve	The Key First Nation	Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation
Muskeg Lake Cree Nation	Cote First Nation	YellowQuill First Nation
Fond Du Lac Band	Black Lake Band	Nekaneet First Nation
Peepeekisis First Nation	Waterhen Lake First Nation	Pinehouse North Village
INDUSTRY		
Airtight Engineering	VOCE Homes	Vereco Consulting and Design
Jobb Connections	Element Connect	ClearResult
Bright Buildings	Montana Homes	Building Studios
Federated Co-op	Mainstay Engineers and Owners reps	MGBHLM Homebuilders and Construction Company
MGBHLM Economic Development		

Forum Attendees

ORGANIZATIONS		
Métis Nation Saskatchewan	Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Program	Saskatoon Tribal Council
Prince Albert Grand Council	Yorkton Tribal Council	First Nations Market Housing Fund
First Nations Capital and infrastructure Agency of Saskatchewan (FNCIAS)	Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies (SAISIA)	Western Development Museum: Indigenous Engagement
SaskPower: Indigenous Customer Care, Relationships		
GOVERNMENT		
Indigenous Services Canada	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation	City of Saskatoon

Summary of Budget

Item	Amount	Rebate*	Total
Attendance of Community Members (travel costs, honorarium)	$23,644.26	$0.00	$23,644.26
Accommodations	$6,185.91	$0.00	$6,185.91
Room for event (food, room rental)	$11,737.18	$361.58	$11,375.60
Fuselight (Graphic Recording)	$7,684.41	$245.18	$7,439.23
AV equipment for zoom (online version)	$2,159.32	$0.00	$2,159.32
Grand Total			**$50,804.32**

Acknowledgements

References

- Axworthy, L. "An Address On Human Security," Minister Of Foreign Affairs to the G-8. Foreign Ministers' Meeting On Human Security," 9 June 1999
- Blunt, A., & Dowling, R. (2006). Home (1st ed.). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203401354
- Bryant J, Bolt R, Botfield JR, Martin K, Doyle M, Murphy D, Graham S, Newman CE, Bell S, Treloar C, Browne AJ, Aggleton P. Beyond deficit: 'strengths-based approaches' in Indigenous health research. Sociol Health Illn. 2021 Jul;43(6):1405-1421. doi: 10.1111/1467-9566.13311. Epub 2021 Jun 19. PMID: 34145599.
- Heimerl, F., Lohmann, S., Lange, S., Ertl, T. (2014) Word cloud explorer: text analytics based on word clouds. In: 2014 47th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS), pp. 1833–1842. IEEE
- King, G., & Christopher J. L. Murray. (2001). Rethinking Human Security. Political Science Quarterly, 116(4), 585–610. https://doi.org/10.2307/798222
- Marshall, M., Marshall, A., & Bartlett, C. (2015). Two-eyed seeing in medicine. In M. Greenwood, S. Leeuw, & N. M. Lindsay (Eds.), Determinants of Indigenous peoples' health in Canada: Beyond the social (2nd ed., pp. 16–24). Canadian Scholars' Press.
- Penfold, H., Waitt, G., McGuirk, P., & Wellington, A. (2020). Indigenous relational understandings of the house-as-home: embodied co-becoming with Jerrinja Country. Housing Studies, 35(9), 1518–1533. https://doi.org/10.1080/02673037.2019.1676399
- Regnier, R. The Sacred Circle: A process pedagogy of healing. Interchange 25, 129–144 (1994). https://doi.org/10.1007/BF01534540
- UNDP (2015). What is human development? https://hdr.undp.org/content/what-human-development
- United Nations. (2004). "Nothing about Us, Without Us". *International Day of Disabled Persons*. URL available on: https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/iddp2004.htm
- Syamimi Masrani A, Nik Husain NR. (2022). Digital environment: An evolutionary component in environmental health. *Journal of Public Health Research*.;11(2). doi:10.1177/22799036221103125
- United Nations (n.d.). Capacity Building. Acceded on February 8, 2024. URL available on: https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/capacity-building
- Weil, M.O. (1996) Community Building: Building Community Practice, *Social Work*, Volume 41, Issue 5, Pages 481–499, https://doi.org/10.1093/sw/41.5.481

Appendix. Questions asked for table discussions

Theme 1. Governance and Policy

Governance
- Who is responsible for housing?
- Who decides which person gets a new house?
- Is there a housing board or committee?
- How does the government decide on housing funding?

Policy
- Does every reserve have a housing policy?
- Are housing policies required?
- What policies are in place for on-reserve housing?
- How do Nations decide what kind of housing to build?

Discussion Questions
- What governance or policy tools are needed to help Nations build successful housing projects, and why?
- What funding is needed to help Nations build, support, and maintain housing, and why?
- How might Nation members be involved in decision-making for housing, and why?
- What partnerships are important to support housing for Nations, and why?

Appendix. Questions asked for table discussions

Theme 2. Training and Transition

Training
- What training is available for housing?
- Where can I learn about housing?
- How do I stay on top of all this information, and why is it necessary?
- How can we train tenants to help look after housing

Transition
- What happens when a new housing councilor, director, or manager comes in?
- What do we do when people leave their job?
- How do we make sure the Nation has access to all the information it needs?
- Why do we have so much turnover in housing staff?

Discussion Questions:
- What is needed to help new leadership and staff transition into a housing portfolio, and why?
- How might training increase success in housing, and why? (examples: trades, certifications, finance, administration, maintenance, grant writing)
- What is needed to increase staff capacity for housing, and why?
- How might tenants support a housing program, and why?

Appendix. Questions asked for table discussions

Theme 3. Asset Management

- How do we keep track of all the data and information for housing?
- What do you do for tenant relations and handling emergencies?
- How do you write good applications and get project funding?
- How can we train tenants to help look after housing?

Discussion Questions:

- What asset management/maintenance practices are needed to support housing, and why? (example: cyclical housing inspections, tenant training, etc.)
- How might a Nation find balance between reacting to emergencies, and forward planning, and why?
- How might data management help a housing department? What is needed to improve data management, and why?
- What is needed to turn a house into a home? What does this change, and why?

Appendix. Questions asked for table discussions

Theme 4. Builds and Procurement

- What contractors do you work with, and why do you like them?
- How do you upgrade and bring everything up to code when the houses are all different ages and different infrastructure?
- What do you do to keep everything on track during a build?
- What would make builds and procurement easier and better?

Discussion Questions:
- What is needed to design houses that better suit community? How might design flexibility change existing housing programs?
- What is needed for Nations and businesses (contractors, engineers, etc.) to work together, and why?
- What is needed to support Nation infrastructure (roads, sewer, water, power, heat, etc.) development, and how might things be different?
- How might housing look in the future, and what is needed to prepare for future challenges?