INDIGENOUS HOUSING PROGRAM
2016 IMPACT REPORT
Habitat for Humanity Canada is committed to partnering with communities in order to provide affordable homeownership opportunities to Indigenous peoples both on and off reserve. We believe that affordable homeownership is an important part of the answer to the severe housing crisis that many Indigenous communities are experiencing. It is my privilege to share with you the results from our Indigenous Housing Program in 2016.

To date, under our Indigenous Housing Program, we have helped 166 families access affordable homeownership, including 38 on First Nations, Métis settlements and reserves. We have also provided over 150 Indigenous youth training and skills opportunities, helping them build or renovate more homes in their communities or secure employment opportunities.

Last year, Habitat for Humanity Canada, through its Indigenous Housing Program, partnered with 34 Indigenous families – on and off reserve – to provide them with a life-changing opportunity to access affordable homeownership. An important part of our program is ensuring that home building and maintenance becomes a sustainable facet of Indigenous communities – helping them build more stability, self-reliance and independence. As a result, over 100 Indigenous youth and women gained skills training in home building and home maintenance through Habitat.

Our successes to date have been built on strong partnerships – individual donors, foundations, corporations, Indigenous communities, governments, and local Habitats across Canada.

With your continued support we will help more Indigenous families build strength, stability and self-reliance through a range of sustainable housing solutions.

Sincerely,

Mark Rodgers, PhD
President & CEO
Habitat for Humanity Canada
Who we are

Habitat for Humanity Canada helps build more than affordable housing. We provide a foundation for families to thrive. Affordable homeownership, and having a safe and decent place to live, has a transformational impact on a family’s life – resulting in better employment, educational and health outcomes, as well as stronger community engagement. We bring communities together to build strength, stability and independence through affordable homeownership.

What we do?

The Habitat for Humanity model is based on a partnership between the family, the community, volunteers, the private sector and, at times with modest one-time contributions from different levels of government.

Families help build and purchase their Habitat homes with an interest-free, affordable mortgage. We build homes in different forms, ranging from single-detached to multi-unit to mixed-use. The size of our developments can exceed 60 units. Our portfolio of projects also includes renovations and retrofits that help preserve the stock of affordable housing. Our skills training opportunities empowers Indigenous youth and women; and energizes partnering communities.

Why Habitat?

Habitat for Humanity brings communities together to help families build strength, stability and independence through affordable homeownership. With the help of volunteers, Habitat homeowners and 56 local Habitats working in every province and territory, we provide a solid foundation for better, healthier lives in Canada and around the world. Habitat for Humanity Canada is a member of Habitat for Humanity International, which was established in 1976 and has grown to become a leading global nonprofit working in more than 70 countries.
2016 results by the numbers

home building and renovation

In 2016, Habitat Canada’s donors enabled 34 Indigenous families to realize their dream of affordable homeownership both on and off reserves (Traditional Territories) in the Yukon, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nunavut.

- **34 Indigenous families moved into their new Habitat home**
- **12 new Habitat homeowners in homes completed in urban areas**
- **22 new Habitat homeowners in homes completed on Traditional Territories**
- **10 home renovations for running water and sanitation started in a remote Northern Ontario First Nation**
In 2016, the construction of 16 new homes for Indigenous families began across Canada. Most of these homes are being built in urban areas and include two homes in partnership with First Nations in New Brunswick and Ontario. As well, work started on the retrofitting of 10 homes in a Northern community in Ontario to provide running water and sanitation.

“Kikinaw” was an historic 10-home project that was completed at Flying Dust First Nation in Saskatchewan to provide wheelchair-accessible homes to Elders from the community.

At Gift Lake and East Prairie Métis Settlements in Alberta, 12 homes were completed to introduce homeownership in the community. As well the construction of 12 homes in Edmonton, Regina, Prince Albert, and Winnipeg area were completed.
Empowerment & capacity development

Improving construction skills through hands-on experience is an essential part of ensuring sustainable housing solutions within an Indigenous community. Over 100 Indigenous youth and women were engaged to develop trade skills on Habitat build sites. As well, Habitat collaboration enabled partnering Indigenous communities to strengthen their housing management abilities, and build their internal capacity to introduce affordable homeownership as a sustainable housing solution on and off reserves.

The success of these partnerships depended on the active support of the local community. These Habitat builds for Indigenous families brought local community members together to help build alongside future Habitat homeowners and other partners from surrounding areas. Volunteering together was an important way that communities helped collectively renew a sense of pride, as well as build individual strength and self-reliance.

34 families received homeownership and financial literacy training

100 Indigenous youth and women obtained trade skills and construction training

20 Correctional Service Canada inmates obtained hands-on construction training while giving back to their community
In 2016, Habitat’s Indigenous Housing Program created a social return on investment of $6 million based on the completion of 34 homes.

A 2015 Boston Consulting Group study shows that there are significant and quantifiable benefits to society as a result of Habitat families having access to affordable homeownership. On average, Habitat generates $175,000 of benefits to society per home. These benefits come in the form of reduced reliance on social housing and food banks, better educational and employment outcomes and improved health.

In 2016, a total of $323,000 was provided to local Habitats in Incentive Grants to support 16 new homes and skills as well as training opportunities for Indigenous youth and women.

This investment, along with other contributions, resulted in 34 homes being completed in 2016. Over 100 Indigenous youth received skills and training opportunities while working on Habitat homes.
With the help of Habitat over the last two years, Flying Dust First Nation realized its dream of providing adequate housing for Elders of the community. The First Nation had been planning the project for over a decade as Elders were badly in need of accessible accommodations. The First Nation partnered with Habitat Lloydminster in 2014 to realize this goal.

The partnership resulted in the completion of an Elders’ lodge, providing 10 wheelchair accessible homes for Elders in the community. The lodge also introduced the concept of a “housing continuum” on the First Nation, providing more suitable housing options for members at a later stage of their life and opening up their current homes for other families in need of housing.

The project provided skills developing opportunities to youth from the community as well as students from Meadow Lake. Over 30 volunteers from across Canada and the USA participated in home-building activities on the First Nation enriching their knowledge of Indigenous culture and the housing challenges faced by Indigenous communities.

Habitat Lloydminster received Canada’s Volunteer Award for the Social Innovator Category for this project, in recognition of the many hours of hard work that volunteers put in to creating the Elders’ Lodge.

“Kikinaw” – Elders’ Lodge at Flying Dust First Nation, Saskatchewan

Métis Settlements Alberta

Six Métis families at Gift Lake, Alberta received keys to their homes just in time for Christmas.

Six families from Gift Lake Métis Settlement moved into their homes on December 19, just in time to celebrate the holidays in their own homes. A joint home dedication ceremony for families was attended by many from the community. At East Prairie, six families will move into their homes in 2017.

These 12 homes are part of an agreement between Habitat Edmonton, the Métis Council of Alberta and Aboriginal Affairs Alberta to build 100 homes to provide affordable homeownership to families and enhance housing management capacity of eight Settlements. To date, 22 Habitat homes have been built over four Métis settlements. The partners are hard at work to follow through on the commitment to make homeownership a reality for many more families in the coming years.
Tobique First Nation
New Brunswick

Habitat Fredericton partnered with Tobique First Nation, to build the first home in the community in 13 years. This First Nation has been experiencing severe housing shortages and many existing homes are in poor condition. The Habitat home is part of a larger initiative to introduce sustainable homeownership in the First Nation community. The project also incorporated a training component for five youth from the community entering the building trades.

Amanda, born and raised at Tobique First Nation, had moved away from home to study and work, but with two young children she wanted them to live closer to her family, in the community where she was raised. Amanda and Phil’s new Habitat home is around the corner from her mother. Their youngest son, who had been struggling while in school in Fredericton, is now thriving at the local school on this small reserve of almost 2,500 people. As part of their volunteer contribution to the project Amanda, Phil and some family members did all of the cleaning, priming, and painting. They moved into their home in January, 2017 and will be completing their volunteer hours by doing most of the landscaping in the spring.

Tobique First Nation and Habitat Fredericton have launched their second project to continue to serve families from the community with a second home that will be built in 2017.

Duck Lake
Saskatchewan

Two more families at Duck Lake will be building and paying an affordable mortgage on their own Habitat homes as Habitat Prince Albert commenced building two additional homes in the town of Duck Lake, about 90 kilometres north of Saskatoon.

The first build began in July 2016. The 1000 square foot single family home with four bedrooms and a partially finished basement will be home for Sharon and her two young daughters.

The second partnership began construction in September 2016, for Shawn, Chantal and their young son. Their home will be a single family dwelling of 1000 square feet with two completed bedrooms and a partially finished basement. Both these homes will be completed in the spring of 2017.

Close to 40 high school students from the community, many enrolled in carpentry and trades programs, are participating in Habitat home-building activities at Duck Lake as part of their educational curriculum. This project is providing valuable hands-on experience. The students obtain school credits for their work. As well, through a partnership with Corrections Canada, inmates are enhancing their carpentry skills while building homes for Habitat families. The facility typically helps build one home annually and enables the participation of 12 to 16 inmates.
In the summer of 2016, Habitat Manitoba rallied the community in Winnipeg around a common goal: building a home for an Indigenous family. In partnership with the University of Winnipeg, Habitat Manitoba built a Ready to Move home on the front lawn of the University; and transported it to Granville Avenue, adjacent to another Habitat home.

The new Habitat homeowners of this project are Kyle, who is a member of Norway House Cree Nation, and Sasha, who is Sagkeeng. The two parents have been working hard to complete their 500 hours of sweat equity and are counting down the days until they move into their new Habitat home.

Families at Pikangikum look forward to having running water, clean drinking water, and being able to bathe in their homes because of Habitat.

Pikangikum First Nation in Northern Ontario, like many First Nations across the country, have deplorable living conditions. Close to 90 per cent of homes in the community lack running water and adequate sanitation. Sadly, the community has also lost many youth as a result of suicide. Habitat Manitoba, in partnership with the Anglican Church of Canada’s Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) and the Mennonite Central Committee of Ontario, worked together to develop plans to retrofit 10 homes. The work has started and by early summer 10 homes will have enhanced water and sanitation systems. The project will also engage community youth to help build their plumbing and carpentry skills.
Indigenous youth and women skills and training

The Trades and Skills Construction Apprenticeship Program (TSCAP) allowed Regina students, some of whom were Indigenous, to build a third home in 2016 for an Indigenous family at Fort Qu’Appelle in Saskatchewan. Forty students over two semesters built an entire home — from foundation to roof. Habitat partnered with TSCAP to provide apprenticeship opportunities to students enrolled in carpentry and trades programs. Students earned school credits and obtain valuable hands-on experience while working on a Habitat home.

At Tobique First Nation, Habitat provided opportunities for five youth from the community to obtain hands-on experience in home building.

Duck Lake Indigenous youth participated with Habitat in building new homes and retrofitting existing homes to improve their trade skills. As a result, high schools are reaching out to Habitat to explore similar student volunteer engagement activities as an incentive for student retention in school academic programs.

Youth from Curve Lake First Nation, Ontario, participated with Habitat to frame Habitat homes in Warsaw.

Tony and Patricia’s three-bedroom home was a dream come true and since moving in, their lives have been filled with hope for their future — and their children’s futures. The family moved into their home in January 2017.

In the family’s previous apartment, they were spending far too much of their income on rent. Both Tony and Patricia have steady jobs at the Labrador Friendship Centre: she works in community outreach and he works in security. Still, paying rent meant sacrificing other necessities.

Buying a Habitat home with mortgage payments geared to their income has meant that they can build financial equity over time, while having the stability of a safe place to call home and raise their family.

In the Kingston area, local Indigenous youth were empowered with hands-on experiences and professional mentorship through a comprehensive program. Youth developed marketable job skills and strengthened life skills, while engaging with their peers and professionals in their local community. The successful program is called “Growing with Habitat.”

Many local Habitats have partnered with high schools across Canada to provide apprentice opportunities.
What’s next?

2017 marks the 10th anniversary of our Indigenous Housing Program. By 2020, our vision is to help a total of 250 Indigenous families build strength, stability and independence through affordable homeownership. Habitat Canada is working with Indigenous leaders, as part of an Advisory Council, to seek their guidance to help further develop the Indigenous Housing Program. Our ultimate goal is to empower even more Indigenous families through affordable homeownership.

In 2017, we plan to partner with 35 Indigenous families, starting over 35 new homes across all provinces and territories to assist Indigenous families to access affordable homeownership on and off reserves. Our goal is that at least 125 Indigenous youth and women will be able to further develop their skills while building Habitat homes, through apprenticeship opportunities.

Further to starting work on 35 new homes, additional Indigenous Housing Program projects this year will assist over 25 families with improved living conditions, leading to better health outcomes for these families. This includes retrofitting 10 homes in northern Ontario to provide running water and better sanitation.

In 2017, we will work with partnering Indigenous Communities to expand their housing options and enhance their capacity around managing Habitat’s affordable homeownership model in order to successfully introduce it in their community. This will also help ensure that the community is able to benefit from sustainable housing projects that will have a long-term, positive impact.

We are committed to transparency and best practices to ensure the best stewardship of your donations.

To make a donation or to learn more about Habitat Canada’s Indigenous Housing Program please contact partnerships@habitat.ca