



REACHING HOME INDIGENOUS NL

LABRADOR FRIENDSHIP CENTRE, PO BOX 767, Happy Valley - Goose Bay, NL A0P 1E0

April 6, 2021

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Hon. Ahmed Hussen, Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Yvonne Jones, MP for Labrador
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Hon. Seamus O'Regan, MP for St. John's South-Mount Pearl
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

To the Right Honourable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the Hon. Ahmed Hussen,
Yvonne Jones, and the Hon. Seamus O'Regan:

RE:

Rapid Housing Initiative Application Rejection—the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay

We, the Regional Advisory Board (RAB) members of Reaching Home Indigenous NL (RHINL), write to support the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay's recent call to increase the amount of funding allocated to the Rapid Housing Initiative through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and consider the Town's funding request to build 25 units of affordable housing as one of significant urgency. Through the federal Reaching Home program, RHINL is the community entity administered through the Labrador Friendship Centre, and we are well aware that our community is in desperate need of increased supports for those struggling with poverty and homelessness. This project will meaningfully impact Indigenous people who are experiencing homelessness, a population we serve everyday.



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We are very excited about the potential that this project will have for our region should more funds be made available. RHINL is currently funding the Housing Hub shelter in Happy Valley - Goose Bay to stay open during daytime hours, and Krystal Saunders, the Housing Hub Outreach Coordinator, and RHINL RAB member, indicates: “This has ultimately led to fewer interactions with law enforcement, less exposure to weather, less periods of intoxication and a safe place to rely on when intoxicated and sleep is all that is needed. Clients do not feel pressure to leave the building in the early morning, but rather can gather themselves and their thoughts in a more peaceful manner which ultimately creates a more productive routine.” There are good things happening, however there are scarce affordable housing resources to which Housing Hub clients can currently be referred. The Town’s project would ensure housing options for Indigenous people who are experiencing homelessness at a higher per capita rate than such centres as Toronto and Vancouver.

Please accept this letter as an indication of strong support for the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay’s call to increase Federal funding for affordable housing and for the Town’s proposed project which particularly reflects our agenda as an Indigenous organization advocating for the homeless of this province. We envision coordinated services to better the lives of the Inuit, Innu, and Southern Inuit peoples of Labrador. Our Board is networking with Indigenous scholars and service providers as we seek to adapt good ideas everywhere to our specific lands, resources and circumstances.

We look forward to seeing an increased allocation of funds to the Rapid Housing Initiative in the upcoming Parliamentary Budget, and hope to see this urgently needed project built in our community.

Sincerely,

Reaching Home Indigenous NL
Regional Advisory Board members

Please see following pages for Board Members names, titles and contact information



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