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## HOUSING NEWS

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### ***Federal government unveils designs as part of the Housing Design Catalogue***

Today, the federal government released the final renderings, floor plan layouts, and key building details as part of the Housing Design Catalogue, an initiative under Canada's Housing Plan. The Housing Design Catalogue provides standardized designs that can help builders and communities in Canada build homes faster. It will help reduce construction costs and timelines as well as barriers to entry in the homebuilding sector.

The catalogue features some 50 low-rise housing designs for rowhouses, fourplexes, sixplexes, and accessory dwelling units. These designs were developed by regional architecture and engineering teams to align with varying building codes, planning regulations,

climate zones, construction methods, and materials. The designs cover all regions of Canada, reflecting local needs and conditions. [Read more](#)  
[Sign up](#) on the Housing Design Catalogue

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### ***Unmet promises for Indigenous housing***

*From the Winnipeg Free Press, March 6, 2025 by Margaret Pfoh, board president of the [Canadian Housing and Renewal Association](#) and the CEO of the [Aboriginal Housing Management Association](#).*

Nearly seven years ago, I spoke with the former CEO of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation on stage in front of over a thousand community housing professionals. He told us that he would have positive news for urban Indigenous housing and that good things would be happening soon. I'm still waiting.

For more than a decade, the Indigenous community housing professionals who build and manage non-profit housing for Indigenous People have been pushing for a fully funded national urban, rural and northern Indigenous housing strategy. We're still waiting.

In fact, eight years after the federal government published a National Housing Strategy, Indigenous People are still waiting at the back of the line. And just as our "turn" is coming, and a portion of promised funds is scheduled to make its way to communities, the door is slamming in our faces. To date, the government has made a series of first step investments into an Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy, but they fall far short of their own National Housing Council's recommendations to meet the true need.

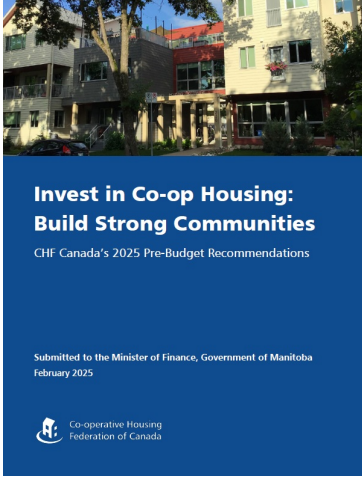
To make matters worse, not one single dollar of the \$2.8 billion committed in the 2023 federal budget has made it to our communities. The long overdue funding has been repeatedly stalled by a bungled RFP process. Not a single home has been created due to delays with releasing the committed funds, and hundreds of shovel-ready projects will now likely lose another construction season. [Read more](#)

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### ***CHF Canada's 2025 Pre-Budget Recommendations***

#### **Invest in Co-op Housing: Build Strong Communities**

Co-operative housing provides security and affordability for over 3,100 families and individuals across Manitoba. For more than 50 years, co-ops have provided good quality, affordable housing owned and managed by the community members who live there. Co-ops foster healthy communities that provide security of tenure to both low and moderate-



income households.

CHF Canada commends the Government of Manitoba's leadership and commitment to end chronic homelessness by 2031. This requires adequate affordable housing options, and we are committed to supporting this goal by expanding and strengthening the co-operative housing sector.

**Recommendation 1:** Pilot a \$10-million Co-operative Housing Starts Program over two years

**Recommendation 2:** Preserve existing non-profit and co-op homes

**Recommendation 3:** Support for For-Indigenous, By-Indigenous urban, rural, and northern housing solutions

[Read more](#)

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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### *Efficiency Manitoba Increases financial incentives by 25% until end of March*

#### ***Building Envelope Program***

A 25% incentive increase for energy upgrades in multi-unit residential buildings heated by electricity or natural gas, completed by March 31, 2025. This includes savings on **insulation, high-performance windows, exterior doors, and curtain walls or storefront installations.**

Check out the [webpage](#) and [guidebook](#) to find out how you can apply!

#### ***Building Lighting Program***

Customers who apply for energy-efficient lighting upgrades before March 31, 2025, can save an extra 25%. This discount applies to **LED fixtures, LED signs, LED lamps, and lighting controls** such as occupancy sensors.

Check out the [webpage](#) and [guidebook](#) to find out how you can apply!

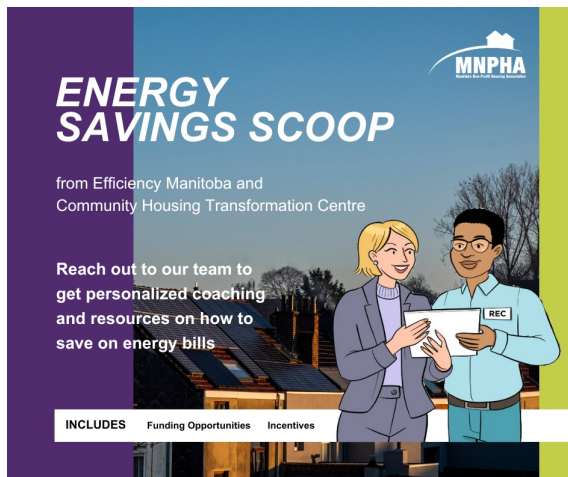
The additional savings period may be extended, however if you have been thinking about upgrades to your building, we encourage you to start planning today. If you want to discuss the application process or ask any questions, you contact our Energy Efficiency Advocate at [efficiency@mnpha.com](mailto:efficiency@mnpha.com) or 204-797-6746 ext.7.

We can help:

- Guide you to the correct program and contact person at Efficiency Manitoba
- Suggest other programs or resources for energy efficiency

Assist with application forms and documentation gathering as needed

[Learn More](#)



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### **Green Kickstarter Fund** *Community Housing Transformation Centre*

Non-profit housing providers can apply for grants of up to **\$15,000** throughout **March 2025** to support eco-friendly initiatives that enhance tenants' quality of life. Funding amounts will vary based on the project.

The Slocan Valley Housing Society in British Columbia received \$10,000 for a retrofit to improve heating and

cooling by installing energy-efficient heat pumps. You can read more about the project, [here](#).

The Centre will help you apply for initiatives that reduce energy costs — contact them today at 1 (833) 360-3967 or by email at [info@centre.support](mailto:info@centre.support)

For any energy efficiency related concerns, feel free to reach to our Regional Energy Coach: Prairies at [rec@mnpha.com](mailto:rec@mnpha.com)

Be sure to visit our [Energy Efficiency web page](#) for more resources!



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## ***RBC Foundation Community Infrastructure Fund***

RBC Foundation has launched the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) to help fund retrofits, repairs and upgrades of existing community spaces, as well as the construction of new spaces, with the goal of increasing sustainability and accessibility of buildings in our communities. Applications will open in the new year.

Applicants will choose one of the following impact areas that best aligns with their project:

- Water efficiency: The project takes an “efficiency first” approach to water conservation, looking at indoor use, outdoor use, specialized uses and metering.
- Energy and atmosphere: The project takes a holistic approach to energy, addressing energy-use reduction, energy-efficient design strategies and renewable-energy sources.

Applications Open until March 28, 2025 [Learn more](#)



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## ***Housing Starts Here: Capital and Operating Funding to Expand Social Housing***



Manitoba Housing has introduced Housing Starts Here, to expand housing supply and end chronic homelessness in Manitoba.

Manitoba Housing will prioritize funding projects that create:

- Social housing, with [rent-gearred-to-income](#) set at 30% of tenants' household income (see [program income limits](#)), accompanied by support services
- Affordable housing, with rents and tenant incomes at or below the Affordable Housing Rental Program limits
- Market housing — see the [Rental Housing Construction Incentive](#)

Through the new streamlined intake, organizations with housing proposals can submit one application to apply for multiple programs any time while funding remains available, including:

- Proposal Development Funding
- Capital Funding Program
- Rental Housing Construction Incentive
- Support Services Funding for New Supply
- Operating Funding for New Supply

[Learn more](#)

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## **EDUCATION**



### ***Builders Breakfast Club***

Monday, March 13th 8:30am - 10:00am at the Wood Tavern, Winnipeg

Are you building new non-profit housing? In the planning stages or interested in learning more about the process of development?

Join us for a special members only Breakfast Club at Wood Tavern. A gathering of housing providers and associates sharing knowledge, learning about opportunities and brainstorming with members in various stages of the process.

A stress-free, intimate members only meeting with the most important meal of the day.

Register Here!

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## ***Opening a New Door to Resolve Landlord -Tenant Conflict Resolution***

Wednesday, March 19, 1:00pm - 2:30pm cst  
Free Webinar from BCNPHA

This workshop aims to provide a solid foundation for constructive conflict resolution. By emphasizing empathy, communication skills, and a collaborative approach, landlords and property managers can seek to foster positive relationships with their tenants, creating a more harmonious living environment for everyone.

Register Here!

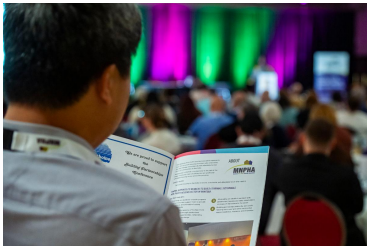
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## ***Governance Essentials***

Build your leadership capacity and learn the essentials of great governance  
April 8 – July 1, 2025  
Online provided by ONPHA

This online Governance Essentials course equips you with the essential governance skills you need to thrive in today's dynamic community housing environment. Learn the three pillars of good governance as you enhance your leadership capacity. Walkaway with new strategies to help you navigate the current political and funding landscape with an entrepreneurial approach.

Register Now!



### ***SAVE THE DATE:***

*Mark your calendars, here's what's happening next at MNPHA*

Tuesday, May 13 - Media Training and Crisis Communication  
Wednesday, May 14 - MNPHA Housing Day  
Friday, June 6 - Indigenous Housing Forum  
October 6 & October 7 - MNPHA Conference

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## **ADVOCACY**



### ***Compensation Survey for the Non-Profit Housing Sector***

MNPHA members have asked for information regarding compensation in the sector to assist in setting wages and advocating for appropriate funding. The information will be kept anonymous, and will be provided back to MNPHA members in a non-identifying format.

The more organizations that participate in the survey:

1. the more valuable it will be for you in being able to compare your salaries, benefits, and scope of work for positions, and
2. the more valuable it will be for the sector as a whole in bringing the issue of wages and expectations of the sector in funding agreements.

If you would like the survey in a different format (excel), please contact Idorenyin at [membership@mnpha.com](mailto:membership@mnpha.com)

Please complete the survey by April 1, 2025.

Take Survey



### *We're on Blue Sky*

If you've joined Blue Sky, [click and follow](#). We're happy to help make connections between housing providers, researchers, media, and advocates.

**Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association**

[www.mnpha.com](http://www.mnpha.com)

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