



The Honourable Rebecca Alty

Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario,
K1A 0A6

May 16, 2025

Subject: Strategic Priorities for Gender Equity, Housing Justice, and a More Inclusive Canada

Dear Minister Alty,

On behalf of the **National Indigenous Women's Housing Network** and the **Women's National Housing and Homelessness Network**, we extend our heartfelt congratulations on becoming the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations. Your leadership represents an opportunity to renew Canada's commitment to gender equity and social and economic justice for all.

We write to you as national networks composed of lived experts, advocates, Indigenous leaders, frontline service providers, researchers, and policy professionals working across Canada to end homelessness and housing insecurity for women, Two-Spirit, trans, and gender-diverse people. These communities are disproportionately impacted by poverty, violence, and systemic exclusion from housing and social support systems.

We recognize that your office plays a key role in enabling Indigenous self-determination, championing gender equity, and ensuring that nation-to-nation relationships are grounded in respect, accountability, and transformative change. The priorities below reflect our commitment to these shared goals and our desire to collaborate on meaningful, community-led solutions.

In this critical role, we urge you to take bold and immediate action across five key priority areas to build a future where all people in Canada can live in dignity and safety:

1. Uphold the right to housing for Indigenous women, Two-Spirit, trans, and gender-diverse people by committing to adopt and implement the forthcoming recommendations of the **Neha Review Panel** on gender equity and housing. We ask you to centre the voices of lived experts in all policymaking processes that affect them, ensuring that programs reflect their lived realities and uphold human rights.

2. Increase and sustain annual funding for the Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy, with a clear commitment to funding streams dedicated explicitly to Indigenous women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people. We ask that the strategy include transparent accountability mechanisms and Indigenous-led evaluation frameworks with clear, gender-disaggregated progress

indicators. This must be aligned with the **full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)**, as recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Report Recommendations.

3. Invest in Indigenous-led housing solutions, prioritizing housing initiatives designed, built, and governed by Indigenous communities, particularly by and for Indigenous women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people. Ensure that culturally appropriate housing models are rooted in local materials and traditional knowledge and focused on long-term safety, healing, and dignity.

4. Advance gender-specific and trauma-informed housing supports through federal housing investments that address the distinct needs of Indigenous women and gender-diverse people who are at increased risk of homelessness, violence, and systemic exclusion. This includes funding wraparound services, such as land-based healing, parenting supports, and addiction recovery, embedded directly into housing initiatives.

5. Advocate for raising the Canada Disability Benefit to a livable amount that reflects the real cost of living with a disability and lifts all people with disabilities out of poverty. Ensure the benefit is accessible, inclusive, and designed in consultation with disability rights advocates and organizations led by disabled people, especially those from Indigenous and gender-diverse communities.

We look forward to working with your government to advance gender equity and housing justice in Canada. We are ready to collaborate, share lived expertise and support the implementation of effective and equitable policies that leave no one behind.

Sincerely,

Khulud Baig, Trinity Fletcher, Arlene Hache, Marie McGregor Pitawanakwat, Alina Perault, Stefania Seccia, and Aymen Sherwani

National Indigenous Women's Housing Network &
Women's National Housing and Homelessness Network