



The Honourable Mandy Gull-Masty

Minister of Indigenous Services
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 Gull-Masty,

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 Indigenous Services. 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.

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

1. Implement the forthcoming recommendations of the *Neha Review Panel* on gender equity and housing by upholding the right to housing for Indigenous women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people by committing to implementing the Neha Review's forthcoming recommendations. ISC must ensure that program design and delivery reflect the lived realities of those most impacted, and that lived experts are meaningfully included in decision-making processes across all levels.

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. Embed trauma-informed, gender-specific supports within all ISC housing investments by funding wraparound services, including land-based healing, parenting supports, and addiction recovery embedded directly within housing initiatives. Addressing the distinct experiences of Indigenous women and gender-diverse people requires ISC to support holistic models that prioritize safety, healing, and long-term stability.

5. Ensure program accountability and equity for off-reserve and urban communities, as many Indigenous women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people live in urban, rural, or remote areas where jurisdictional gaps create barriers to accessing federal programs. We urge ISC to collaborate across departments and with Indigenous housing providers to ensure that housing programs are inclusive and flexible.

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