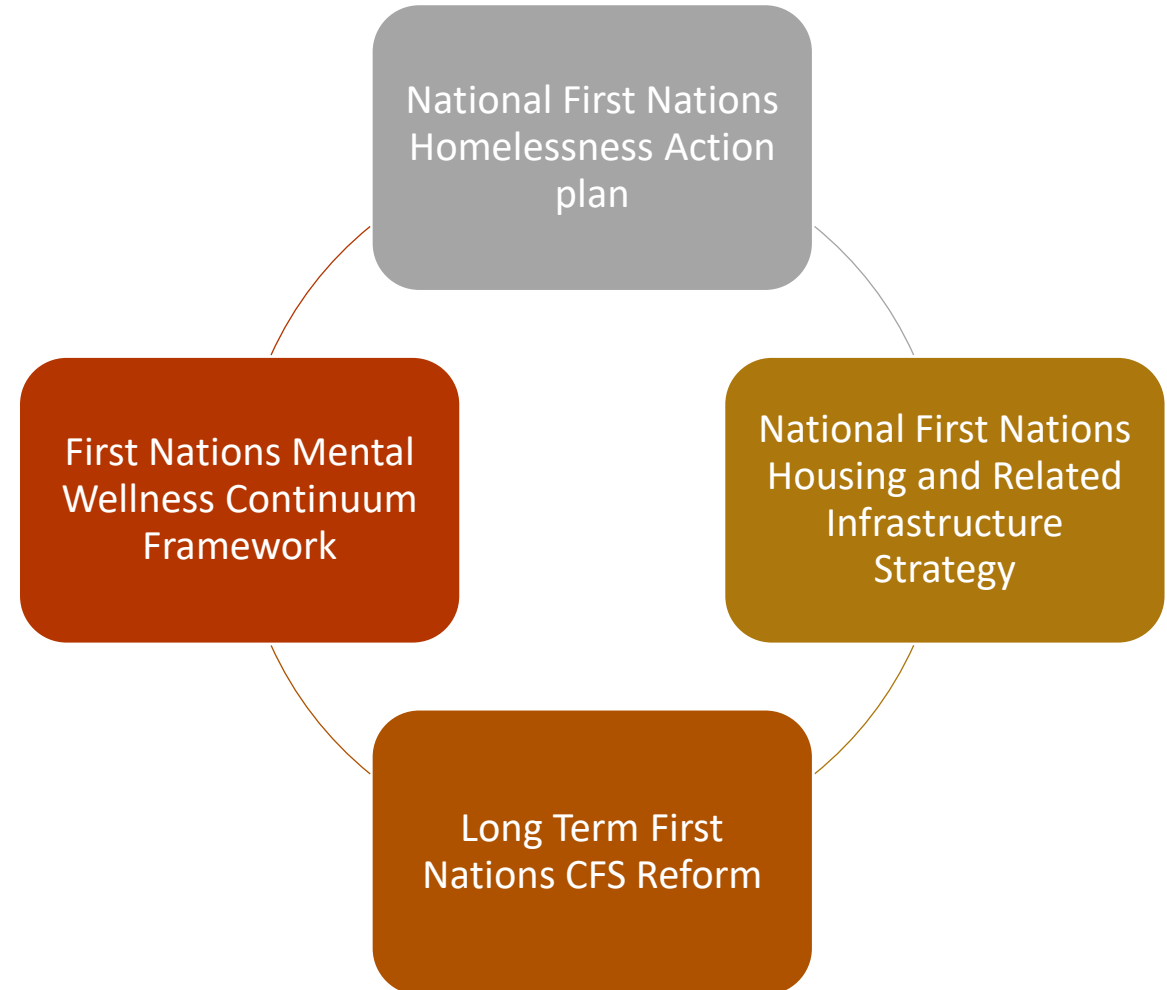




ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

Session Objectives

- Look at definitions and root causes of First Nations homelessness
- Understand the importance of First Nations self-determination in areas of housing, homelessness and social services
- Learn about the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN's) work related to homelessness
- Learn about interconnected AFN initiatives and strategies related to addressing the root causes of First Nations homelessness
- Questions and Discussion





ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

Defining First Nations Homelessness

Self-Determination

- First Nations have the right to define homelessness according to their own priorities and world views
- No singular definition of First Nations Homelessness

Visibility

- Homelessness often invisible within First Nations communities (e.g. on reserves or settlement lands)
 - Couch Surfing
 - Overcrowding
 - Inadequate Housing

Impact of Colonialism

- Root cause of First Nations homelessness and related social issues
 - Intergenerational Trauma
 - Disconnection
 - Displacement

Definitions of home

- Differences from Western concepts of home
 - Traditional territories
 - Networks of responsibilities and connections
 - “Homelessness” within First Nation homelands

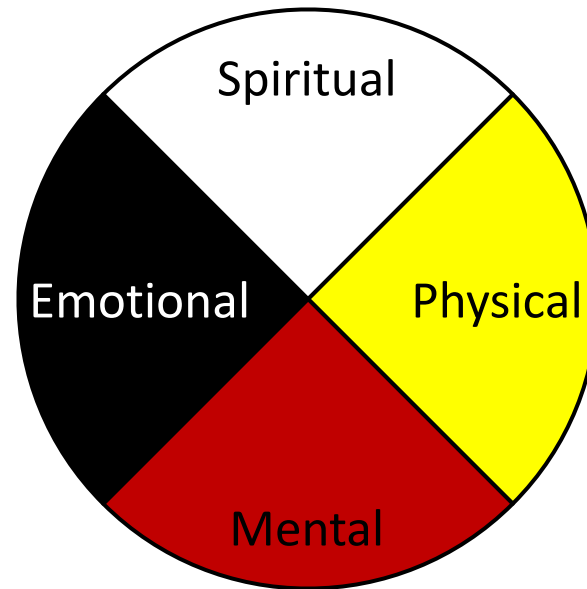


ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

Root Causes of First Nations Homelessness

- Intergenerational Trauma
- Loss of language, ceremony and tradition

- Loss of Identity
- Disconnection from Community and Traditions
- Loss of Language



- History of Residential Schools
- Forced relocation
- Impacts of Child Welfare

- Social Issues
- Racism and Discrimination



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

Addressing First Nations Homelessness: First Nations Jurisdiction and Self-Determination

Housing as a Human Right,
Inherent Right, and Treaty Right

First Nations Care and Control
over Housing, Child Welfare,
Social Services

United Nations Declaration on the
Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Distinct and adequate funding for
First Nations to provide
homelessness services



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

FIRST NATIONS CONTROL OF HOUSING

AFN's role is to advocate on issues common to First Nations

First Nations governments assert inherent & Treaty rights to govern our own housing

Transformative change to federal First Nations housing policy based on First Nations jurisdictional control of housing

First Nations approach is summarized in key foundational documents led by AFN



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

KEY MILESTONES: FIRST NATIONS GRADUALLY ASSUMING CONTROL OF HOUSING

2017

- Policy Reform Framework
- Indigenous Services Canada launches initiative to negotiate transfer of control to First Nations

2018

- Chiefs approve National First Nations Housing & Related Infrastructure Strategy

2018-19

- AFN leads national First Nations housing survey

2021

- Research estimates on the cost of First Nations housing needs
- standards to level enjoyed by most Canadians at \$60 billion to 2040

2022

- Additional research is underway which will considerably raise that estimate



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

FIRST NATIONS HOUSING ESSENTIAL TO OVERALL WELL-BEING

- Indigenous Services Minister Hajdu committed to Close the Infrastructure Gap by 2030
- Federal Budget 2022 committed \$3 billion/5 years to First Nations housing, a down payment to the full amount
- AFN continues to advocate for the full federal investment commitment expected in Budget 2023
- AFN involved in developing federal Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy
- Chiefs want capacity to provide housing services to their citizens no matter where they live
- AFN researching change to more holistic approach to housing planning as a key ingredient to well-being.



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

AFN's mandate on homelessness

- First Nations overrepresented within the homeless population
- “Hidden Homelessness” prevalent within First Nations Communities
- First Nations rights and jurisdiction extends to caring for all citizens
- A Resolution from First Nations-in-Assembly provides the AFN with a mandate to develop a National First Nations Homelessness Action Plan

AFN Resolution 79/2019

- Identify resources to conduct homelessness research
- Draft National First Nations Homelessness Action Plan
- Advocate for solutions to First Nations Homelessness
- Improve social programs and funding to address homelessness



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

Research Highlights

9,191 First Nations people, at minimum, are estimated to experience homelessness on any given night in Canada

First Nations people accounted for 28% of the homeless population in communities that reported on the number of First Nations people experiencing homelessness, while they represented only 2.0% of the population in these communities

Around 4% of homelessness services across Canada are First Nation-led, and the majority are not Indigenous-led

Further research is needed to determine the scope and amount of homelessness, especially within First Nations communities



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

Engagement Overview

Regional Engagement Sessions

16 Sessions with 134
Participants

National Survey

140 Responses Received

Discussions with service providers

Conversations with
homelessness organizations
across Canada



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

What We Heard

- Importance of holistic, wrap-around supports and services
- Need for distinctions-based funding and First Nation-led homelessness programs and services
- Value of partnership and collaboration between First Nations and urban/rural homelessness service delivery organizations
- Impact of inadequate housing and overcrowding in First Nations on homelessness
- Invisible and underreported – need for further research



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

Research

- Literature Review
- Environmental Scan
- Systems Map
- Cost Estimates
- Data Collection



Engagement

- Regional Sessions
- Symposia/Forums
- Survey
- Discussions

Mandates

- Previous Resolutions
- Draft for Approval

Co-Development

- Canada
- AFN Regions
- First Nations
- Service Providers



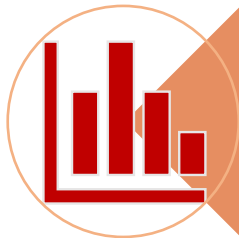
ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

National First Nations Homelessness Action Plan: Next Steps



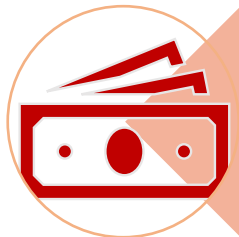
Action Plan

- Draft Outline – Engagement and Input
- Co-Development
- Draft to Chiefs-in-Assembly



First Nations Homelessness Data Collection within First Nations Communities

- Tool/methodology development for First Nations to collect their own data
- National-level analysis



Cost Estimate Research

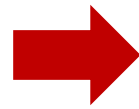
- Inform AFN federal budget advocacy
- Strengthen Action Plan



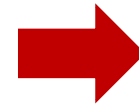
ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

First Nations Child and Family Services and First Nations Homelessness

Why include child and family services in a conversation about First Nations homelessness?



Indigenous children represent an estimated 52.2% of children in state care in Canada but account for only 7.7% of the overall child population.



“As a population, Indigenous people are at a much higher risk of being involved with child welfare systems, and this involvement has been found to be the strongest predictor of subsequent visible homelessness (Alberston et al., 2020)”



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

“Social workers would, quite literally, scoop children from reserves on the slightest pretext. She also made it clear, however, that she and her colleagues sincerely believed that what they were doing was in the best interests of the children. They felt that the apprehension of Indian children from reserves would save them from the effects of crushing poverty, unsanitary health conditions, poor housing, and malnutrition, which were facts of life on many reserves.”

- Patrick Johnston, *Native Children and the Child Welfare System* (1983)



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

Components of First Nations Child and Family Services Funding Reform

Baseline

Previous Fiscal
Year's expenditures (+ annual
increase for inflation and population growth)

Prevention

\$2,500 per capita

Poverty

5% to fill poverty
related gaps

Results

5% of baseline

Information Technology

6% of baseline

First Nations Representative Services

\$283 per capita

Emergency Fund

2% of baseline

Capital

Capital Asset Replacement Fund,
Capital Maintenance Fund, \$2
million for housing

Post-Majority



Support Services

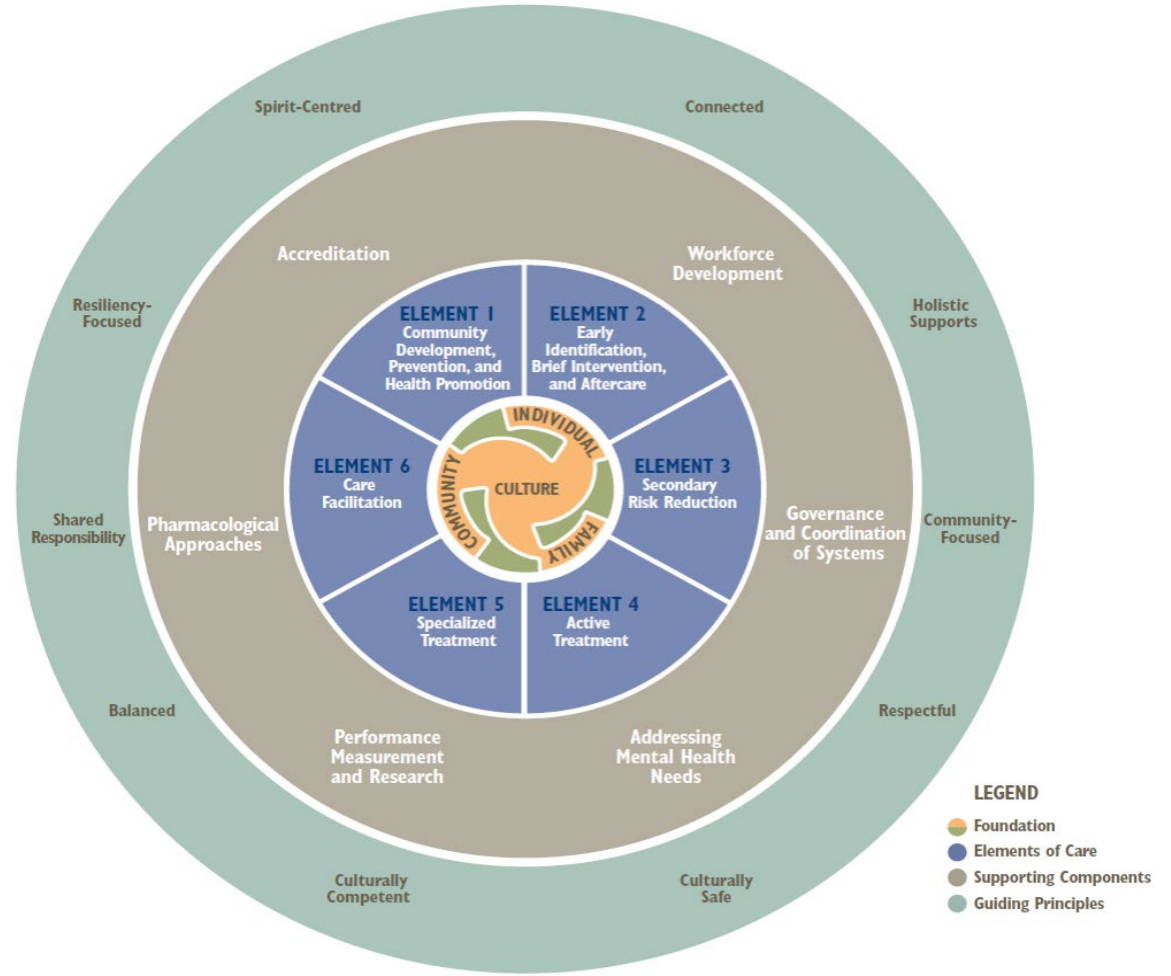
Actuals until March 31, 2024
to allow for ongoing costing research



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

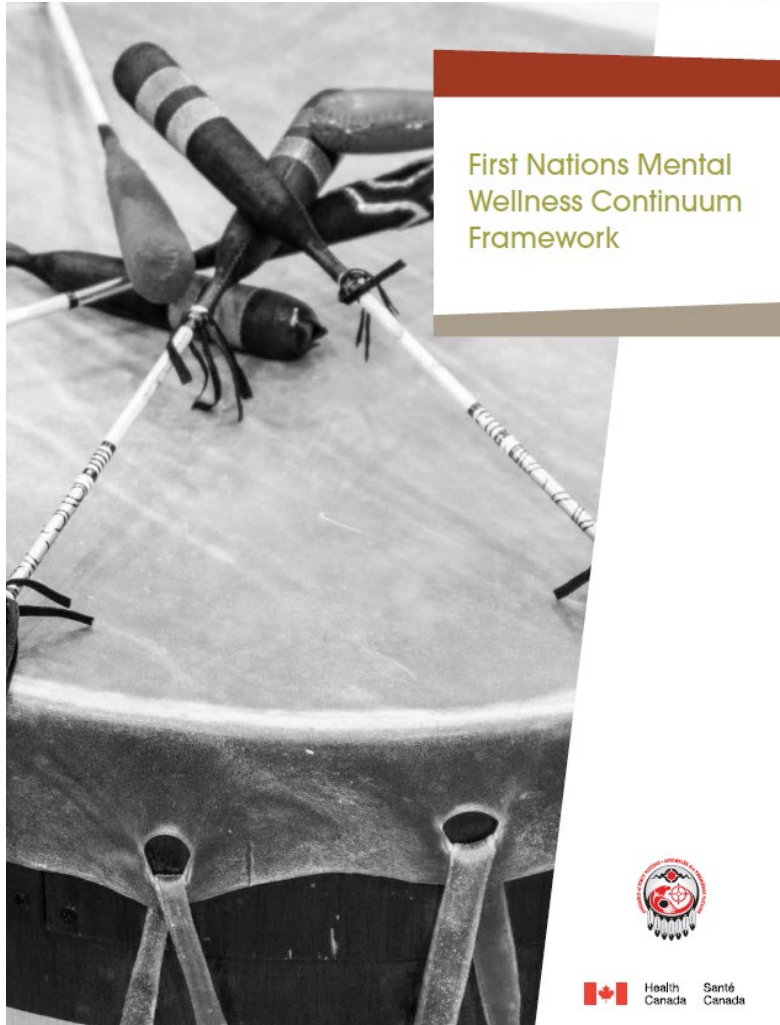
Honouring Our Strengths:
A Renewed Framework to Address Substance Use Issues Among First Nations People in Canada
 Summary Report



 Health Canada Santé Canada

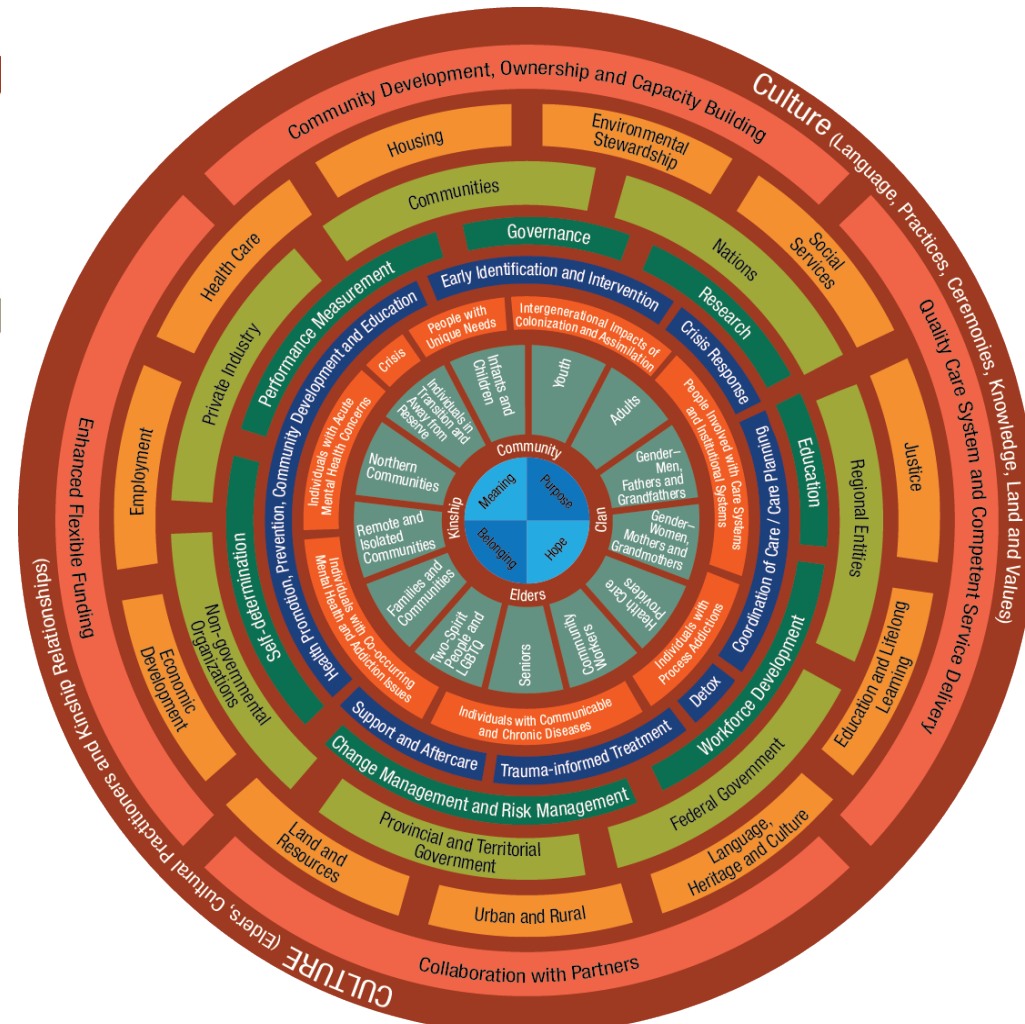




ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS



First Nations Mental Wellness Continuum Framework





ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

First Nations Mental Wellness: *What Then?*

- Examples
 - Community
 - Services
 - Policy
 - Systems



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

First Nations Mental Wellness: Funding?

- Journey Together (ON)
- Mental Health Promotion (PHAC)



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

First Nations Mental Wellness: Culture as Foundation

- HOS
- FNMWCF
- Homelessness

**Please contact nalisappi@afn.ca for resources*



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS

miigwech
ninanaskomitinaw
kinanâskomitinawaw
Thank you

Questions and discussion