

From a Good Place: Housing Security Insights and Action CAEH 2023

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Land Acknowledgement

I graciously acknowledge that we are on Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People and that the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory recognize that we are all Treaty People.



Outline

1. Who we are
2. Where we have been
3. Where we are now
4. Where we are going
5. Questions



Vision

To inform data-driven housing policies, programs and planning.

- To increase awareness, understanding, and action regarding housing security and homelessness within rural and remote Saskatchewan and beyond.
- Starting point to collect meaningful data on housing security in Saskatchewan with community partner MN-S.
- Provide demographic information to better understand who is experiencing housing insecurity and to identify where community services are most needed.
- Provide data to inform leaders, community service providers, and other bodies to accurately project service needs and allocate resources accordingly.
- Improve access to data collection through Participatory Action Research.



Who we are

Research Team: *Teamwork makes the Dream work*

- **Candy Ochieng**- Research Coordinator
- **Ryley Hawkeswood**- Research Assistant
- **Catalina Gomez**- Research Assistant
- **Sandra Kolesniak**- Research Assistant
- **Brynne Smith**- Research Assistant
- **Jason Mercredi** Métis Nation- Saskatchewan
- **Brenda Mishak** – Adjunct Professor USask,
Associate Professor UVic.





Where we have been

- 2019 Pathways to Equity: Housing and Homelessness in Saskatchewan workshop.
- Goals of the workshop identify 2 –3 research themes viewed by participants as high priority and actionable.
- This workshop set the stage for ongoing interdisciplinary collaboration between faculty and community members and organizations and determine next steps to engage in meaningful research projects.



Funding

- Spring 2022 Grants opened- 3 \$10,000 grants funded by anonymous donor to USask- Pathways to Equity
- Brenda engaged NCWC President in summer of 2022 focused on actionable goals from the provincial conference.
- Grant submitted fall 2022 with community partner MN-S
- Grant successful December 2022
- Funding Grant in Lieu of Salary
- January 2023 hired Research Coordinator and Assistant.
- August 2023 grant submitted to Sparc BC for Kitimat and Terrace projects. \$70,000 (\$35,000 each)

Methodology

Advisory Committee

Review of Literature

National Council of Women of Canada:
Think Tank

Métis Nation – Saskatchewan: Batoche
Survey Data collection

Analysis of Batoche Data and preliminary
report.





Advisory Committee

- **Intersectoral** advisory committee.
- **Meetings** throughout the entire research cycle.
- December, **wrap up**, thank, and share any grant success with the advisory committee.
- **Next steps** if we receive further funding to scale up this project, we will invite the advisory committee members to continue our relationship. Build further community relationships.

A background image showing a desk with several books, one of which is open. A lamp is visible in the background, and the scene is softly lit. The image is partially obscured by a white curved shape on the right side.

Literature Review

- 1. Affordable housing:** A leading cause of housing insecurity.
- 2. Support services:** People experiencing housing insecurity often require a range of support services, including mental health and addiction services, job training, and financial support.
- 3. Partnerships:** Collaborating with organizations, government agencies, and community groups to leverage funding and resources and ensure that efforts are coordinated and effective.
- 4. Research:** Conducting research on the root causes of housing insecurity and the effectiveness of interventions help guide funding decisions and resource allocation.
- 5. Private sector investment:** Encouraging private sector investment in affordable housing and support services to supplement public funding and create sustainable, long-term solutions to improve housing security.



Métis Nation-Saskatchewan

- Data collection – Adaptation of Rural Development Network Housing and Services Survey
- USask Ethics Review Board
 - Full Ethics Approval received
- Preliminary Data to be reviewed by MN-S
- Data analysis, interpretation, adoption by MN-S as community partner



"Housing on the Homeland"

- "A short 7–10-minute research study to inform community dialogue on housing security, services, and potential solutions".
- Research in the community for the community. Our Data Collection event at the Back to Batoche event July 20-23.
- In partnership: Pathways to Equity, USask, and MN-S



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Saskatchewan



Reflections

- Sample size representation information collected
“what we would do differently”
- Open discussion – small groups, focus groups
- Mobile App Issues: No cell service.
- Event Context: Visibility Problem:
- Learning from Experience: Several field notes
- Importance of community relationships, engagement with
community partners.

Where we are



Preliminary Data Analysis

- Accessibility, Affordability, and Suitability are pivotal factors in housing support expectations within the community.
- The need for community awareness campaigns highlights an information gap and the importance of addressing residents' sensitivity to the topic.
- Comprehensive Housing Support: Enhance housing programs to improve Accessibility, Affordability, and Suitability.
- Targeted Awareness Initiatives: Launch campaigns to increase community awareness of housing programs.
- Respectful Engagement: Foster open dialogue ensuring a safe space for sharing.





Preliminary Policy Recommendations

Preliminary Policy Recommendations

Ensure	Promote	Enhance	Increase	Improve
<p>Ensure Housing Stability: Provide housing support for those in need and offer guidance through housing challenges.</p>	<p>Promote Diverse Housing: Encourage mixed housing options. Develop affordable rental choices.</p>	<p>Enhance Supportive Services: Improve communication about social services. Collaborate with local organizations for support.</p>	<p>Increase Affordable Housing: Encourage affordable housing options. Creative ideas to increase affordability options.</p>	<p>Improve Transportation and Food Security: Enhance transportation and housing accessibility. Address food insecurity through local resources and education.</p>



National Council of Women of Canada

- Think Tank June 2nd, 2023, Saskatoon
- Data collection- USask Ethics Review Board - Exemption received.
- Gathering Organizational Strategies to address Housing Security
- Focus Group questions- provided prior to AGM
- Focus Group discussions lead by, recorded, themed by research team.
- National Common Theme chosen at AGM “Housing as Human Right”
- The NCWC is committed to studying the issue and taking action to help ensure that every Canadian has the housing they need.
- Future partnership grants on ‘Right to Housing’ research and policy recommendations.



National Council of Women of Canada

As a participant at this Think Tank, representing your organization:

1. What **actions** has your organization taken to address housing security?
2. What **challenges** or obstacles has your organization encountered while addressing housing security?
3. What specific **policies** has your organization adopted to tackle housing security?
4. What measures or **indicators** has your organization established or implemented to assess the outcomes of its initiatives?
5. Are there any program-specific **statistics** that your organization has utilized to evaluate its efforts in promoting housing security?
6. If your organization's **website** is publicly available, could you please provide its address?

Where we are going



Prairie to Pacific Terrace and Kitimat, BC

- Added three research assistants from the University of Victoria, namely Catalina Gomez, Sandra Kolesniak, and Brynne Smith.
- Final-year nursing students. Team focusing on addressing gaps in Kitimat and Terrace communities.
- Research focus policy, public perception, and second-stage housing for men
- Time 6 hours/week. Weekly meetings as a team and midterm and final check-in with their Uvic Faculty Christina Chakanyuka PhD (C)
- Community Partners: Tamitik Status of Women, 'Ksan Society, DOKitimat ...another beginning....





Questions?

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Thank you

Contact:

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