

# Accessible Housing – Inclusive First Nations

## Project Overview

### What This Project Is About

This project looking at accessible housing in First Nations communities across Canada.

Accessible housing means homes that are designed or adapted so that persons with disabilities, Elders/seniors, and families with accessibility needs can live safely, comfortably, and independently.

As we know, many people do not have access to housing that meets their needs, especially in First Nations communities.

### Why This Work Is Important

There is a major gap in accessible housing across Canada, and it is even more serious in First Nations communities.

- About 30% of homes on First Nations need modifications to be accessible
- Many communities face underfunding and competing priorities (like water, employment, and infrastructure)

Through this project, we will work with First Nations communities, Leadership, Housing Departments, persons with disabilities, Elders, and families to better understand:

- What accessible housing currently looks like
  - Physically and systematically (i.e., how they receive funding and run band housing)
- What is working well
- What gaps and challenges exist
- What needs to change

We will gather information through:

#### **In-Person Community Engagements**

- Visiting 14 communities across Canada (we can repeat provinces)
- Hosting focus groups or discussions
- Speaking directly with community members
- Physically seeing housing structures in communities

#### **Virtual Engagements**

- One-on-one or small group conversations with:
  - Community Leadership or Housing staff
  - Government representatives (Federal, Provincial)
  - Experts and organizations

#### **Surveys and Research**

- Collecting information from a wider group of people via SurveyMonkey
- Reviewing existing reports, policies, and programs
- Conducting lit reviews

# Accessible Housing – Inclusive First Nations

## Project Overview

### What This Project Is About

This project looking at accessible housing in First Nations communities across Canada.

Accessible housing means homes that are designed or adapted so that persons with disabilities, Elders/seniors, and families with accessibility needs can live safely, comfortably, and independently.

As we know, many people do not have access to housing that meets their needs, especially in First Nations communities.

### Why This Work Is Important

There is a major gap in accessible housing across Canada, and it is even more serious in First Nations communities.

- About 30% of homes on First Nations need modifications to be accessible
- Many communities face underfunding and competing priorities (like water, employment, and infrastructure)

### How We Are Going to Do This Work

#### Our Approach

We will take a community-based and relationship-focused approach. This means we will work with communities in a respectful, flexible way that fits their needs and preferences.

#### Outreach and Relationship Building

- We will reach out to First Nations communities by email or phone
- We will introduce our organization and the project
- We will ask if the community is interested in participating

If a community is interested:

- We will work with them to identify a key contact person, such as:
  - A member of Chief and Council
  - A Housing Director
  - Another staff member identified by the community
- This person will guide how we engage with the community

#### Planning Together

- Ask the community how they would like to participate (i.e., virtual, in person, via survey only)
- Decide together what works best, such as focus group, one-on-one conversations, housing tour, or mix of these
- Share questions in advance

#### Community Visit (In-Person Engagement)

When possible, we will visit the community in person. If possible, it is best to book in approx. a month in advance so flights and accommodations can be booked ahead of time seamlessly.

- 2 team members travel to the community

# Accessible Housing – Inclusive First Nations

## Project Overview

### What This Project Is About

This project looking at accessible housing in First Nations communities across Canada.

Accessible housing means homes that are designed or adapted so that persons with disabilities, Elders/seniors, and families with accessibility needs can live safely, comfortably, and independently.

As we know, many people do not have access to housing that meets their needs, especially in First Nations communities.

### Why This Work Is Important

There is a major gap in accessible housing across Canada, and it is even more serious in First Nations communities.

- About 30% of homes on First Nations need modifications to be accessible
- Many communities face underfunding and competing priorities (like water, employment, and infrastructure)
- Fly in one day, stay for one day, fly out next day (or as appropriate)
- Julia will pay for travel and accommodations; however, the team will research flight times, accommodations, and catering (if applicable)

Activities may include:

- Hosting a small focus group
- Meeting with leadership or housing staff
- Observing housing conditions (with permission)
- We will follow all community protocols and guidance during visits

### Virtual Engagement

Some conversations may happen virtually, especially with government representatives, housing professionals, or subject matter experts. These are usually:

- One-on-one or very small group discussions
- Focused on systems, policy, and broader challenges

### Documentation

We will document what we learn in a respectful and transparent way. This may include:

- Written notes
- Audio recordings (with consent)
- Photos of housing (only with permission)
- Participants will be informed about how their information is used.

### What We're Looking At

This project focuses on:

- Housing design and accessibility (especially for physical disabilities)
- The ability for people to live and age in their community

# Accessible Housing – Inclusive First Nations

## Project Overview

### What This Project Is About

This project looking at accessible housing in First Nations communities across Canada.

Accessible housing means homes that are designed or adapted so that persons with disabilities, Elders/seniors, and families with accessibility needs can live safely, comfortably, and independently.

As we know, many people do not have access to housing that meets their needs, especially in First Nations communities.

### Why This Work Is Important

There is a major gap in accessible housing across Canada, and it is even more serious in First Nations communities.

- About 30% of homes on First Nations need modifications to be accessible
- Many communities face underfunding and competing priorities (like water, employment, and infrastructure)
- Broader accessibility needs (including Deaf and blind communities)

We are also looking at:

- Policies and programs related to housing
- How housing connects to overall community accessibility

### What We Will Produce

We will create:

- Community Reports
  - For each community we visit, we will write up reports as to what we heard (see Zoe's documents)
- Two Interim Reports
  - Due June 30<sup>th</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup>
- One Final Report
  - With key findings and recommendations for First Nations communities and government (Accessible Standards Canada) to help improve housing policies, inform new accessibility standards, and support better housing design and planning
  - Will be in French, English, and plain language

### Who We Are Working With

We will work with a wide range of partners, including:

- First Nations communities and leadership
- National organizations (like Inclusion Canada and DAWN Canada)
- Government departments
- Housing and infrastructure organizations (like Habitat for Humanity)

# **Accessible Housing – Inclusive First Nations**

## **Project Overview**

### **What This Project Is About**

This project looking at accessible housing in First Nations communities across Canada.

Accessible housing means homes that are designed or adapted so that persons with disabilities, Elders/seniors, and families with accessibility needs can live safely, comfortably, and independently.

As we know, many people do not have access to housing that meets their needs, especially in First Nations communities.

### **Why This Work Is Important**

There is a major gap in accessible housing across Canada, and it is even more serious in First Nations communities.

- About 30% of homes on First Nations need modifications to be accessible
- Many communities face underfunding and competing priorities (like water, employment, and infrastructure)

These partnerships help us gather knowledge and perspectives, build relationships, and strengthen recommendations.

### **What Success Looks Like**

In the future, we hope to see:

- More awareness of accessible housing needs
- Stronger collaboration between communities and organizations
- Better housing policies in First Nations communities
- More accessible homes being built or adapted
- Clear recommendations to improve national standards