



Housing Resources Service

Serving the communities of Nlaka'pamux, Secwépemc, and Upper Nicola

SPRING 2025 GATHERING REPORT



Introduction

Spring has sprung and with it came a fantastic gathering of great and skilled minds from the HRS member communities.

There were presentations delivered by First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), BC Housing, First Nations Market Housing Fund (FNMHF), Kanaka Bar, and Tkemlúps te Secwépemc (TteS) with some fun along the way.

Gathering Objectives

- Learn more about Emergency Preparedness
- Network
- Learn more about funding programs and services

Housing Resources Service Update

Rick and Ruth provided the Housing Resources Service (HRS) update since the last gathering in the fall.

Circuit Rider Initiative

The Circuit Rider initiative was presented, and the communities were asked to give some thought to their specific community housing needs and how the Circuit Rider could be of assistance. After much planning, HRS decided the best way to deliver the Circuit Rider concept will be to accept 2 or 3 communities who would like assistance in things like planning, program delivery and accessing program funding. The direction would come from the communities and the Circuit Rider would work alongside the Housing Manager. More information will be provided as the initiative progresses.





The reasons behind the online Financial Learning Survey were explained to the participants. The goal behind the survey was to gain accurate information about what kind of financial resources are needed in communities. Since the beginning of HRS, the feedback from communities continues to be that Housing Managers and staff want to learn more about budgets and finances. HRS would like to know more specifically what that means. So, the Financial Learning Survey was developed to gather more specific information.

Here are some of the comments submitted by the respondents for further information or education/training needs: Forecasts and planning; How to create an Excel spreadsheet for a construction budget; Housing accounting systems; More about budgets; Apps for billing and invoicing; budget priorities; Reporting; Future planning asset needs versus budget; Project cost tracking; How to read budgets; How to create a construction budget; How to create a maintenance budget; Learn about MLG's and how they can be used; Sec.95 budgets, do they cover the operation of the phase?; General Contractor tender documents; Replacement Reserve budgets; Assessing bids; Excel templates; Calculating maintenance fees homes without a mortgage; How to stack funding; Have the opportunity to work on creating schedules for housing financial statements.





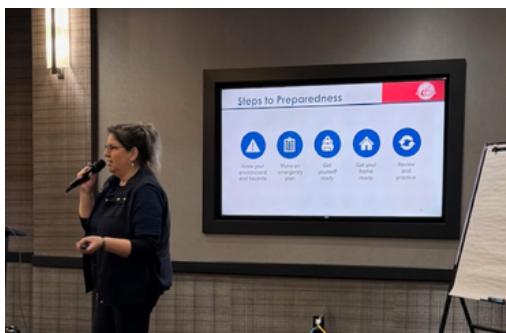
Virtual Winter Gathering

We meant to mention the Virtual Winter Gathering that HRS hosted on February 25th. The virtual gathering was well attended and so well received that we invited Wendi Omeasoo from First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) to present at the Spring Gathering.

Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Operations Centres

We are very thankful Wendi accepted our invitation and delivered a very informative and important presentation that encouraged everyone to not only process the information about emergency preparedness from a personal perspective, but also from the perspective of each person's role within the Housing Department. Climate change is causing dramatic increases in wildfires, floods and landslides and the more people who learn how to be as prepared as possible for such things, the better we will be in the case where we must respond to an emergency.

In addition to Emergency Preparedness, Wendi shared her knowledge of Emergency Operation Centres; when they are put in place, roles and responsibilities and how communities are funded to operate these centres. It was noted that there have been some serious fails in the past with how First Nations communities were treated during wildfire and flood evacuations and some improvements have been made.



There is still work to be done and one key factor in ensuring improvements are made is by having Community Liaisons who know their community and will advocate for culturally appropriate, fair and safe treatment of their community members in the case of these traumatic times.

Note

Wendi's presentation slide decks for both sessions, as well as all of the other presenters' slide decks have been previously emailed to all communities.



Spring Gathering Loonie Auction Winner

Patricia Shackley will be donating the money raised from the Loonie Auction to her community's Youth Group. She took home a great prize which included some camping gear, a child's Easter basket and child's ribbon skirt. Congratulations to Patricia!



Funders, Funders, Funders

The opportunity to connect with representatives from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), First Nations Market Housing Fund (FNMHF) and BC Housing in a friendly, relaxing atmosphere is one of the things HRS is always proud to be able to coordinate. All of the presenters shared the current funding opportunities that are available and answered questions.



Patricia McCourt, ISC

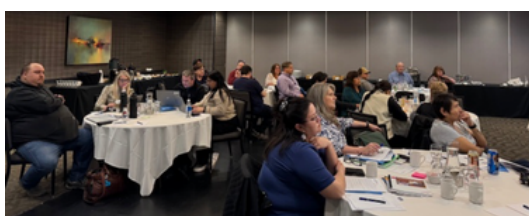


*Erika van der Grinten,
FNMHF*



*Kendall Hall,
BC Housing*

All the representatives stayed and participated in the entirety of the Gathering and were available to anyone who had questions over the 2 days. This really is what partnership looks like and what makes progress and growth possible.





Networking: The tie that binds

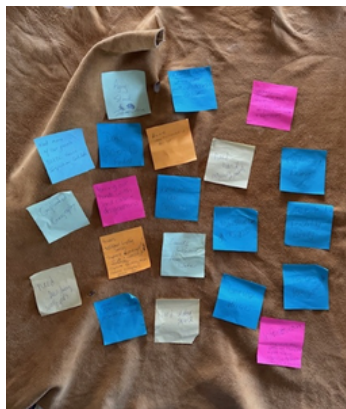
When HRS invited Kanaka Bar and Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc to share what they are doing in their respective communities and they accepted, we knew we were in for a treat. Both presentations were beyond our expectations and HRS is genuinely grateful for the presentations. The feedback from both of the presentations was extremely positive. We lift up our hands to the work being done and the willingness and kindness to share.



The work that went into these presentations gave the audience a look into the two communities and a sense of actually being there. Many thanks to Kathryn and JR from Kanaka Bar and Jesse and Myron from Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc. (Left to right: Kathryn Brooks, JR Hance, Jesse Goodwater-Paul, Myron Thomas, Rick Sabiston)

Group Activity: What does your current housing situation look like?

This was a round table discussion, and the information shared back with the group was as follows on the next page.





Group Activity Results: What does your current housing situation look like?

1. Infrastructure issues – agencies keep passing the buck and not talking about responsibilities and not labelling infrastructure as housing.	13. Need stronger private ownership policies
2. Water and Sewer are essential housing materials unless we return to outhouses and packing water.	14. Aging stock and infrastructure
3. Need good water sources	15. Need to update lands with mapping access GIS/ARC
4. Always dealing with lands without power and water	16. Need a data system for funding
5. Reserves with complicated geographies	17. Need strong Land Use Policies
6. Need land – ATR process is an impediment to progress	18. Need Housing Policies
7. Forcing our hands with Land Codes and Land Designations	19. Need to know how to procure administrative funding
8. Need funding and access to renovation funding	20. Need help with Replacement Reserve
9. Always dealing with tenants in arrears	21. Need infrastructure designs
10. Need additional funding sources	22. How do I do a Feasibility Study?
11. Compliance with Social Assistance is an issue – reporting and working relationship between the two departments is a struggle.	23. Need Rent to Own Contracts
12. Need to capture funding after natural disasters – EMAP, ISC	24. Need more of our people BOABC House Inspection Certified



Summary

The team at HRS would like to say thank you to everyone for attending the Spring 2025 Gathering. All the planning in the world cannot make an event a success. It is the people who show up and contribute that makes it a success. We know you have huge workloads and busy calendars, and we recognize the importance of the work you do in your communities every day. Your work is meaningful and every project you do leaves a legacy in your community that you can be proud to have been a part of.

