

For Immediate Release:
October 6, 2025

BC's Two Largest Indigenous Organizations Unite to Strengthen Urban Indigenous Housing and Services

AHMA and BCAAFC celebrate new Memorandum of Partnership to improve health and housing outcomes for urban Indigenous people in BC.

Unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, Vancouver – The Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) and the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) are proud to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Partnership, strengthening their shared commitment to advancing the rights, wellbeing, and self-determination of Urban Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia.

This partnership builds on decades of leadership from both organizations in advocating for safe, affordable housing and culturally grounded supports for urban, rural, and northern Indigenous communities. By working together, AHMA and BCAAFC aim to amplify Indigenous voices, improve housing outcomes, and create pathways to holistic community wellness.

“This strengthened relationship represents a powerful step forward in uniting our voices for the benefit of Indigenous families and communities across the province,” said Margaret Pfoh, AHMA’s CEO. “By joining forces, we strengthen our ability to push for systemic change in housing and services.”

“BCAAFC and AHMA share a mandate to improve the health, housing, and community well-being of Indigenous peoples,” said Celeste Hayward, BCAAFC Executive Director. “This partnership is about weaving those threads into an even stronger fabric to ensure that Indigenous families have a safe home, access to supports, and a community of care that reflects their culture and identity.”

AHMA and BCAAFC will develop a joint work plan to identify areas of collaboration to better connect Indigenous People in BC to housing services and supports. The collective work undertaken will advance health and housing outcomes for Indigenous people in BC.

“It takes broad collaboration and a deep understanding of the existing needs to connect housing with support services that can make a difference,” said Pfoh. “That is why we are working

together to help ensure a better future, and we invite all government Ministries to support this effort. Many Indigenous people have complex requirements that need to be met, and it takes broad collaboration to help ensure improved support.”

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About AHMA

The Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA) has over 25 years of expertise in advancing housing rights for Indigenous Peoples. We are Canada’s first *For Indigenous, By Indigenous* housing authority. AHMA members manage over 95% of all Indigenous housing units located off-reserve in BC, and AHMA administers funds for over 10,000 Indigenous individuals and families living in urban, rural, and northern parts of the province. We also advocate broadly for Indigenous housing, provide operational guidance, conduct research, support asset management, and much more.

About BCAAFC

The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) was established by the Friendship Centres of British Columbia to serve as the provincial umbrella organization, providing advocacy, coordination, and support for its 25 Indigenous-led, non-profit Friendship Centres; which together employ over 1,700 staff, maintain more than 600 partnerships, and engage in over 1,000,000 client interactions each year. The BCAAFC supports Friendship Centres in urban, rural, and northern communities across the province.