

HOUSING RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Trent University's Native Studies Program



A classroom in a traditional tipi. (Photo courtesy of David Newhouse)

The Native Studies Program at Trent University was established in 1968 as the first in Canada. A master's program was added in 1985 followed by a PhD program in 1999.

Trent University is a small university of 6,500 students located in Peterborough, Ontario. The program, with its focus on indigenous knowledge, is one of the only institutions in North America where one can study this subject area throughout the curriculum. This unique focus helps to further a strong desire within Aboriginal communities to build communities using their own traditional knowledge.

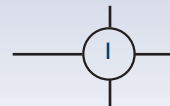
Trent University Reviews Survey Data

A Trent University review of survey data and other documentation has found that Aboriginal peoples have been moving to urban centres and creating communities for at least 75 years, since the end of World War II. The most important reasons for the exodus were severe economic conditions, poor housing, inadequate resources, limited educational opportunities, high rates of unemployment and alcohol abuse in their home communities.

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About the National Housing Research Committee

The National Housing Research Committee (NHRC), established in 1986, is made up of federal, provincial and territorial, municipal, industry, social housing, academic community and consumer representatives.

Its objectives include

- identifying priority areas for housing-related research or demonstration
- fostering greater co-operation, developing partnerships and minimizing overlap in research activities
- encouraging support for housing research
- promoting the dissemination, application and adoption of research results

In addition to the Full Committee, the NHRC also operates through working groups to exchange information, discuss research gaps and undertake research projects. Currently, working groups meet on housing data, homelessness, sustainable community planning, seniors housing, and housing and population health. NHRC participants also contribute articles to the *NHRC newsletter*, which is produced twice a year, and network with their online community: www.nhrc-cnrl.ca

The NHRC co-chairs are Leigh Howell of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Hélène Aubé of the Société d'habitation du Québec.

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There's also no doubt that many of these Aboriginal migrants were seeking jobs, an education, better housing and adequate social services. Some Aboriginal people continue to move, returning back and forth between urban centres and their home communities. They are far more likely to rent homes, to change addresses more often and to live in poorer neighbourhoods than non-Aboriginal people. They are also more likely to migrate between urban centres and other regions of the country than non-Aboriginal Canadians.

Trent University also looked at Statistics Canada's two most recent Census and Aboriginal Peoples Surveys from 1993, which indicated that the urban Aboriginal population in Canada ranges somewhere between 40 and 60 per cent of the total Aboriginal population, depending upon the method of counting and the definitions used. However, the *Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples*, done in 1996, characterizes the urban environment as inimicable to Aboriginal people.

Research into the History of Urban Aboriginal Institutions and Organizations

This research has shown that Friendship Centres were first created in Winnipeg and Vancouver in 1958 by Aboriginal people to assist those Aboriginal people moving from reserves and rural areas to urban centres. These centres began as drop-in centres where friends and relatives newly arrived would gather to seek advice and assistance from those already established. Initially, new arrivals were directed to the various agencies that could assist them in such areas as shelter, education and employment.

As migration continued, Aboriginal people seeking education, skill training and better employment opportunities made their way to Canada's urban centres. Migrating Aboriginal peoples became one of the country's most disadvantaged minority groups, suffering from social isolation, loss of identity, a low level of participation in community life and a lack of understanding of the basic processes and institutions of urban society.



The modernist First Peoples House of Learning at Trent University (Photo courtesy of David Newhouse).

Over the last decade in particular, urban Aboriginal organizations are now assuming key roles in the delivery of services in health, (through organizations like the Vancouver Native Health Society walk-in clinic and Poundmaker's Lodge in Edmonton), education (in programs like the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program in Regina and Saskatoon, and the Joe Duguet High School in Edmonton) and in economic and employment development (through organizations like the Estey School Aboriginal Employment Program in Saskatoon, and the Anishinaabe Oway-Ishi Aboriginal Youth employment preparation and placement program in Winnipeg, to name a few).

Government Support for Infrastructure, Including Housing

Governments at all levels have also supported the development of this infrastructure through a variety of funding programs, both in terms of on-going funding for operations and for programs and projects: the Aboriginal Friendship Centre Program, Community Health Funding Program and Cultural Centre Funding. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation also created an urban native housing program delivered through Aboriginal housing co-operatives and organizations.

Trent University Studies Two Aboriginal Housing Co-ops

Trent University also did a study in 2000 on Aboriginal Housing Co-ops for the University of Saskatchewan. The report documented the stories of two Aboriginal housing co-operatives in the city of London, Ontario. Their origins are similar; they both accessed federal government support and applied a standard co-operative, organizational formula: total

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The Canadian Institute of Planners' First Nations Initiatives

In July 2003, the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the First Nations Land Management Resource Centre to work collaboratively to build capacity in land use, resource and environmental planning, and land management in First Nations communities.

The Resource Centre is a national First Nations organization that has been mandated by First Nations and the Government of Canada, pursuant to the *First Nations Land Management Act*, to support First Nation management of reserve lands and resources.

Currently, 14 First Nations communities have working Framework Agreements with the Resource Centre, 30 First Nations communities are about to vote on whether to adopt a Framework Agreement with the Resource Centre, while another 60 to 90 communities have expressed their interests to the Resource Centre.

To date, the CIP and the Resource Centre have initiated a number of collaborative projects.

The First Nations Land Management Capacity Building Initiative

This Initiative has been identified in the 2004-2006 CIP Strategic Plan and Action Plans with the following expected results:

- to enhance land use planning capacity within First Nations communities;
- to facilitate First Nations access to professional services of CIP members

- to facilitate training for First Nations staff and leaders involved with land, environment and resource management

- to enhance public education and governance development in First Nations communities

A CIP-First Nations Committee has been established. The committee will be involved in the implementation of the MOU by:

- maintaining a National/Affiliate forum to ensure the effective implementation of the CIP/FNLMRC MOU;
- assisting First Nations in accessing professional services from CIP members with First Nations work experience who are registered in the Roster of Members;
- facilitating and/or participating in the organization of provincial or regional First Nations land use planning workshops under the Agreement;
- providing assistance and guidance to First Nations land managers to access training and professional development in accordance with the terms of any educational or training programs developed under the Agreement;
- reviewing and commenting on program-related documentation and/or processes; and
- engaging in teleconferences and, as funding/needs dictate, face-to-face meetings.

The Municipal Aboriginal Issues Network (MAIN) Initiative

The focus of MAIN is to work towards: capacity building, sharing best practices,

community development, community sustainability, comprehensive community planning and relationship-building in local communities. Funding for this initiative is provided by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

In February and March 2005, CIP participated in two MAIN Initiative meetings. At the March 30, 2005 MAIN meeting, the partners executed a Memorandum of Understanding, in essence, agreeing to work together on projects of common interest. One of these initial projects will focus on economic development through a joint initiative between municipal government and the Aboriginal communities in addressing housing, employment and skills training, education, community safety and health care issues.

The MAIN partnership is comprised of representatives from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, National Association of Friendship Centres, National Aboriginal Housing Association, First Nations Finance Authority, Canadian Institute of Planners, Lands Advisory Board, Indian Taxation Advisory Board and the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Council of Canada. Additional stakeholders include representatives from INAC and the Aboriginal Secretariat of the Privy Council Office.

For more information please contact Chris Leach, MCIP and President of CIP at (204)239-3351 or via email at: CLeach@gov.mb.ca

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member control and the availability of subsidized rent in exchange for member involvement in the running of the co-op. Both organizations have focused development efforts on "scattered" housing. The Native Inter-Tribal Housing (NITH) co-op has concentrated its housing in a particular neighbourhood in the west end while the First Nations Housing Co-operative (FNHC) has its homes scattered widely across the east end of town, primarily in the lower income areas of London.

The study found that two pressing priorities for both co-operatives are to keep their funding agreements at the federal level and

to work for new spending in the sector. Both organizations have resisted attempts by the federal and provincial governments to download funding responsibilities for co-operative housing to the municipalities. As well, both co-ops have been frustrated in their efforts to expand their services due to the complete absence of new government spending since 1994.

Governance: Stewardship over the Structures and Processes of Everyday Life

One of the large faculty interests is in the area of governance, which the University

defines as stewardship over the structures and processes of everyday life. They have been exploring the development of intuitions within Aboriginal communities and will be turning their attention to a study of the way in which housing and housing stock is governed and will focus on the question of institutional development in this area.

For more information contact David Newhouse, Chairman and Associate Professor in the Department of Native Studies and the Business Administration Program at Trent University at (705)748-1011 ext. 7497 or via email: dnewhouse@trentu.ca

Bridges and Foundations Project on Urban Aboriginal Housing

In the year 2000 CMHC jointly funded, with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, a Community University-Research Alliances (CURA) in Housing program. The creation of this special program was designed to bring together communities and universities to study what both parties identify as critical problems using a housing perspective. The Bridges and Foundations Project on Urban Aboriginal Housing CURA in Saskatoon was one of two projects that received funding.

Project partners included: Affordable New Home Development Foundation, the Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission, the City of Saskatoon, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, First Nations University of Canada, the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc., the Quint Development Corporation, the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, the Saskatoon & Region Home Builders' Association, the Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership, the Saskatoon Tribal Council, the Social Housing Advisory Committee and the University of Saskatchewan.

The central vision of this project was to build functional, sustainable relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations and to design and develop culturally supportive communities and quality, affordable housing options. In particular, this project sought to develop a better understanding of how to establish and sustain culturally inclusive partnerships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations who are working to improve the quality of life through affordable, quality housing options in Saskatoon. The research was to include a description and analysis of the processes that work (or do not work) when building relationships between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in an urban setting.

This project is doubly important as the Saskatoon and Regina areas currently have the highest proportions of urban Aboriginal populations in Canada.

In its original conception, this project had three phases:

1. Basic research to update the demographic profile of Aboriginal people in Saskatoon
2. Exploration of Aboriginal housing conditions and needs
3. Practical analysis of Aboriginal housing design and supply

The project's research attempted to determine the difference between what was available in housing and community services in Saskatoon and what its Aboriginal community needed. It succeeded in gathering a large volume of pertinent information on urban Aboriginal housing, living conditions and quality of life, giving Saskatoon a more detailed knowledge of its Aboriginal population than any other city in Canada.

Key questions were posed during the research to achieve the best results. They included, but were not limited to: What are the real needs of Aboriginal people in Saskatoon for affordable and adequate housing? How are the existing reserves shaped? How can Aboriginal people in Saskatoon achieve the best results in relation to new housing initiatives?

Results

The project's research objectives have been largely, if not completely reached. Most importantly the project made great strides in building trust between the Aboriginal communities, the universities, the City, local community organizations and the homebuilders.

The comprehensive co-operation characterized by this project was innovative, in-depth and informative for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations who recognized the merits of the collaboration. Another important result has been to empower Aboriginal people to gain more control over their destiny through participation in decision-making and by having their voice heard.



Some of the projects under the Bridges and Foundations initiative include

- The City as Home: The Sense of Belonging Among Aboriginal Youth in Saskatoon
- Aboriginal Post-Secondary Student Housing
- Socio-Demographic Study of Aboriginal Population in Saskatoon
- Affordable Homeownership for Aboriginal People in Saskatoon: Financial and Funding Options

It was considered important that this study not be seen as yet another research project using Aboriginal people as subjects without involving them in original decisions. It has been a beneficial mutual learning experience between both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal partners.

Through this study, Aboriginal organizations learned that they should continue to collaborate in diverse ways with non-Aboriginal organizations, especially the City and homebuilders, to develop improved housing and quality of life for First Nations and Métis residents.

To check out the more than 40 separate research projects, please visit

<http://bridgesandfoundations.usask.ca/>

For additional information please contact:
Dr. Alan Anderson
via email: alanbanderson@sasktel.net, or at
(306)966-6927.

The Canadian Home Builders' Association's 2005 Pulse Survey

The Canadian Home Builders' Association, with the assistance of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Natural Resources Canada, recently completed the 2005 edition of the 36th semi-annual Pulse Survey.

A total of 334 new homebuilders and renovators across Canada responded to the survey. The main highlights of the survey that were reported in the press included

- **New homebuilders expect housing starts to ease through 2006 but to remain strong.** Total housing starts are forecast to decline this year and the next. The expected decline is largely attributed to Ontario and Quebec.
- **Renovators forecast increased renovation activity.** Renovators across all regions indicated that their renovation activity was generally up over the past year and they expect further improvement in the next 12 months.
- **Concerns over shortages and associated rising costs of serviced lots have grown over the past year and are the top concerns for new homebuilders.** Increasing development charges were also a problem in most regions. Concern over regulatory issues rose for new homebuilders over the past year; while insurance rates/premiums and coverage problems eased. Shortages and rising costs of labour remain critical problems for about one in five new homebuilders.

Over the last 15 years, the Pulse Survey has become a rich source of information that is generally not covered in the popular press

The Bank of Canada recently used the Survey to learn more about changes in house prices over time. There is also a wealth of information on construction practices. For example, here are some of the things learned from the latest Survey.

- **About one-fifth of homebuilders have done a waste audit in the past two years.** Homebuilders in Quebec, Atlantic Canada and BC more often reported having done so.
- **About four in ten homebuilders indicated having a construction waste diversion program in their municipality for wood and drywall. Six in ten indicated availability of a program for metals.** Homebuilders in Atlantic Canada and B.C. more often indicated having waste diversion programs than did builders in other regions.
- **One-fifth of new homebuilders built homes with secondary suites in the past year.** About one in four new homebuilders reported building homes in the past year that had services roughed in for secondary suites.
- **Most new homebuilders used tarps on their trucks to control dust pollution (63 per cent).** Other methods of reducing dust generated from work sites included portable fences (42 per cent), compacting disturbed soil (32 per cent), partial enclosures (31 per cent), watering (31 per cent) and maintaining vegetative cover (28 per cent).

For more information contact Don Johnston, CHBA at (613)230-3060 or via email: johnston@chba.ca

The Social and Economic Situation of Nunavik and its Future

Faced with challenges such as ever-increasing healthcare needs and costs, the Quebec government is asking citizens to choose from among various possible re-engineering scenarios, including the cessation or privatization of services.

The study "The Socio-economic Situation of Nunavik and Its Future," was produced by the Canada Research Chair on Aboriginal Conditions at Université Laval and was completed in June 2004. It concisely examines certain aspects of the demographic, social and economic situation of Nunavik, and is based on recent public statistics, as well as a series of projects conducted in the region over the last 20 years.

It identifies the fundamental aspects that differentiate the situation of the most northerly region of Quebec from that of the rest of the province.

Population

Nunavik has a very young population; the number of children under 15 years old is, proportionally, two times higher in Nunavik when compared with Quebec as a whole. On the other hand, average life expectancy is lower in Nunavik with the proportion of elderly people being four times less.

These phenomena contribute to two key elements which help to explain the current situation in Nunavik and the region's future.

- First, Nunavik's population is growing at a rate that is six times higher than the rate for Quebec.
- Secondly, in Nunavik those of working age support a higher number of dependants. Regardless of family type (married couples, single-parent, etc.), families in Nunavik are on average larger than families elsewhere in Quebec.

Economy

Nunavik's economy is highly influenced by government. In fact, government operations are the most important industry in the region. These operations alone represent more than 50 per cent of the region's domestic product, while they represent only 7 per cent of Quebec's domestic product.

Public Services

In Nunavik, the delivery of public services represents the major part of the economy since these services generate a large number of jobs. Per capita, healthcare costs and education costs, are on average higher than elsewhere in Quebec.

This study also shows that Nunavik's geographic remoteness as well as its arctic and sub-arctic climate result in additional costs with respect to labour, transportation, heating and maintenance, in each of the fields of healthcare, education and social housing.

Conclusion

This study identified four key elements which may be useful to evaluate the pertinence of scenarios that propose altered roles for Nunavik within the province of Quebec.

- First, rapid population growth in Nunavik suggests that the need for public services will likely increase in coming years. Numerous births, as well as childcare and educational needs, will place ever more pressure on public services.
- The second key element identified was the size of families in Nunavik: on average, these families are more numerous than elsewhere in Quebec and they comprise more dependants.
- Thirdly, despite their efforts to make a living, Nunavik residents earn less, must support more people and are forced to

pay higher consumer prices. In short, the economic situation of Nunavik residents is less privileged than their Quebec counterparts.

- Finally it was shown above that even though the cost of public services is on average higher in Nunavik than in Quebec, these costs have failed to raise the standard of living in the region.

For more information contact Gérard Duhaime, Canada Research Chair on Aboriginal Conditions at Université Laval at (418)656-2131 extension 2977, or via email: gerard.duhaime@soc.ulaval.ca

CMHC Issues Revised 1996 and 2001 Core Housing Need Estimates

CMHC has been releasing revisions to previous estimates of core housing need. During verification of ongoing research, CMHC found that some households had been misclassified when Statistics Canada applied core housing need to both the 1996 and 2001 Censuses. The outcome of the misclassification was to overestimate core housing need for both 1996 and 2001. Data for 1991 were not affected. The impact of the misclassification varies across geographic regions and socio-economic groupings. Therefore, CMHC has released revised versions of Issues 2 through 4 of the 2001 Census *Housing Series of Socio-Economic Research Highlights*, and will be releasing revised versions of Issues 6 through 9, all of which address core housing need. In addition, the 2005 *Canadian Housing Observer* will provide extensive tables of revised core housing need data. Further information on the impact of the misclassification is available in English at http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/about/whwedo/whwedo_021.cfm or in French at http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/fr/info/cenofa/cenofa_021.cfm

Tuberculosis in First Nations Communities Associated with Crowded Housing, Remoteness

This synopsis is based on a study published in the International Journal of Epidemiology. The full reference is Clark, M, Riben, P, and Nowgesic, E: The association of housing density, isolation and tuberculosis in Canadian First Nations communities; (Int J Epidemiol. 2002 Oct;31(5)940-5)

In 1999 the tuberculosis notification rate among First Nations people living on reserve was 10 times that of the overall Canadian rate of 1997.

To reduce incidence and eventually eliminate the disease, there needs to be less than one secondary infection per infectious case over time. To achieve this, the contact rate between infected and susceptible persons has to be reduced. Plausibly, the contact rate is difficult to reduce in many First Nation communities because of crowded housing conditions and community isolation.

Overcrowding can lead to a higher reproductive rate of the disease over time because of the high level of inter-personal contact. As well, in isolated communities, the opportunities to access health services are clearly less easy and less frequent, especially for the lower income households, resulting in delay in patients presenting themselves to health services, and hence a longer exposure to the high level of contact.

This 2002 study by Clark et al. was done to examine the association between crowding, isolation and income with the incidence of TB in almost 300 Canadian First Nations communities. The methodology behind this study was to take measurements of crowding, income and degree of isolation (together, the community risk factors) and see if they could predict the presence or absence of TB cases at the community level.

Crowding was measured by the average number of persons per room (ppr). Average crowding among the First Nation population on reserve is higher at 0.7 ppr than among the non-Aboriginal Canadian population at 0.4 ppr. This data and

household income levels were derived from the 1996 census. Geographic isolation was measured by having no, or greater than 90 km, road access to a physician (although scheduled flights and/or good telephone service may exist). Isolation categories were obtained from the Community Workload Increase System (CWIS), a database used to estimate resource, funding and health program needs in First Nations communities. Tuberculosis data were provided by the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) which has regional TB programs, responsible for TB control on reserves. The level of analysis was the community so, for example, the crowding measure is derived by dividing the total number of people in the community by the total number of rooms. The period of analysis was 1997 to 1999.

Results

During the period of analysis the TB notification rate increased significantly with the level of crowding. For example, the rate was 18.9 (cases per 100,000 population) in communities with crowding rates between 0.4 to 0.6 ppr; and 113.0 in communities between 1.0 to 1.2 ppr (see graph). For communities that reported two or more cases of TB, all community risk factors were significantly related. An increase of 0.1 ppr in a community was associated with a 40 per cent increase in risk, while an increase of \$10,000 in community household income decreased the risk by a factor of four; and being an isolated community increased risk by 2.5 times.

In 1999, 40 per cent of the total cases reported in the First Nations on-reserve population occurred in five communities. All of these communities were located in isolated areas, with average housing densities of 0.8 ppr.

Overall, the study shows a significant association between housing density, isolation, income levels and TB. Overcrowded housing has the potential to increase exposure of susceptible individuals to infectious TB cases. The results also suggest that TB is more common in isolated communities, where unique challenges exist in transporting patients, equipment, drugs and staff.

Implications

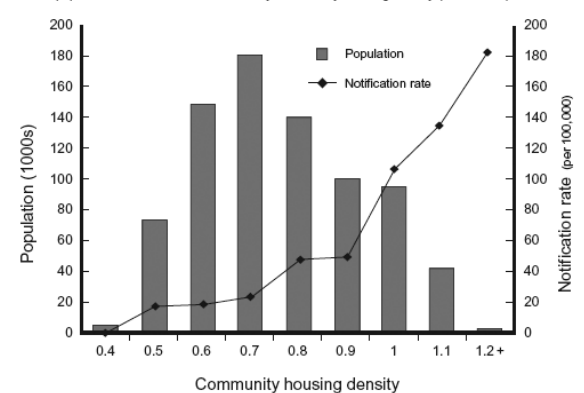
The need to address overcrowded housing and other socioeconomic determinants of TB to eliminate it in First Nations communities has been recognized through this study.

Socioeconomic risk factors (such as crowding rates) considered in this study could be useful as a supplement to traditional indicators of TB risk in a community, such as annual risk of infection and disease incidence.

Socioeconomic indicators could be used by TB control programs to assist community health staff in understanding risk for TB in the community and to plan appropriate preventive actions based on this risk.

For more information on social issues and tuberculosis in First Nations and Inuit populations, contact Dr. Marcus Lem of the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada at (613)957-3393 or via email: marcus_lem@hc-sc.gc.ca

Figure 5.2 Total population and TB notification rate by community housing density (1997-1999)



City of Regina: Research as a Catalyst for Housing Development

The City of Regina's housing role has changed dramatically over the past six years. The catalyst was the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Housing report, *The Future of Housing in Regina: Laying the Groundwork*. The Committee brought public and private housing providers, community organizations, government partners, Aboriginal organizations and individual residents together to set a new direction for housing development in Regina. A committee was established to advise the City on housing issues arising from the report and to monitor implementation of the recommendations. Key outcomes include

- the establishment of a Housing Co-ordinator position at the City;
- a comprehensive review and revision of tax exemptions for new housing development in the inner city; and
- the establishment of the Regina Affordable New Home Foundation, which has developed affordable housing initiatives through the private sector.

The report is the City's most referenced document for inner city and affordable housing initiatives, homelessness initiatives, City expenditures, and in-kind contributions to housing projects.

Regina's Affordable Solar Housing Project

A highly successful research project done in cooperation with McGill University's School of Architecture was the Regina Affordable Solar Housing project, which was undertaken with support from CMHC and Saskatchewan Housing Corporation. The purpose of the project was to demonstrate designs for affordable housing that make maximum use of passive solar energy using existing construction techniques. The projects had to be affordable for moderate-or modest-income families. The seven sites ranged from new subdivisions to seniors apartments and infill housing on 25-foot wide lots in the inner city.

Regina's Healthy Housing Demonstration Project

Opened in September 2005, the Regina Healthy House incorporates all five healthy housing principles: occupant health, energy efficiency, resource efficiency, environmental responsibility, and affordability in construction, operating and maintenance costs.

The project started when the Robert McCrank law firm approached Ehrlo Community Services on behalf of a client who needed new housing. Other partners with the City included CMHC, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation and the Government of Canada's Urban Aboriginal Strategy.

The one-and-a-half story home was built at \$125 per square foot, is wheelchair accessible, and includes modular panel walls that allow for a faster build than the traditional stick-frame approach. It also includes locally produced low-maintenance pan-brick facing that adds to the insulation value, and low-cost landscaping.

Access Place

The one-year-old Regina Access Place is one of the few consumer-owned and managed accessible housing projects for persons with disabilities in Canada. It was developed by South Saskatchewan Independent Living Centre (SSILC) in response to the lack of accessible housing for adults with significant disabilities. One of the objectives of Access Place was to provide a high level of accessibility and to minimize the reliance of residents on others.

Architect Roger Mitchell worked closely with SSILC and members of the disabilities community to develop open-concept suites where the space can easily be adapted to varying mobility levels and where persons with cross-disabilities can live independently.

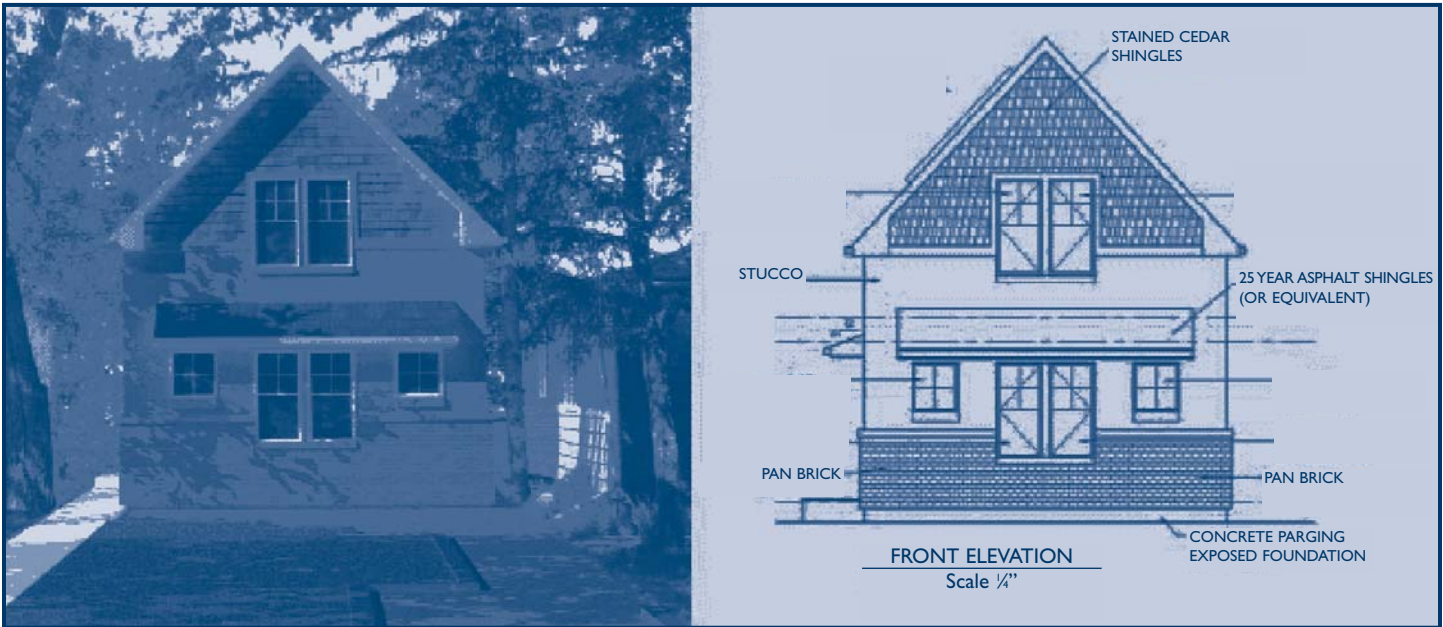
Future Directions

Research in Regina will continue to emphasize housing as a key dimension of quality of life and of sustainable neighbourhoods and communities. Communities of Tomorrow, a partnership of the National Research Council, the University of Regina and the City, has provided research funding to develop a community partnership. The initiative uses the National Charette Institute's Dynamic Planning model and Integrated Design Process to create and implement an economically feasible sustainable neighbourhood plan and housing project in an inner city neighbourhood. The Canadian Plains Research Centre has initiated a pilot project to develop neighbourhood quality of life indicators, with an initial focus on housing and safety. In addition, changes to national housing programs and increases in the urban Aboriginal population have been key factors in the dramatic increase in housing projects initiated by Aboriginal organizations and First Nations governments. This is helping to fill a major gap in housing development and will provide opportunities for innovation in housing forms as well as ownership and development models.

For more information on these projects, contact Bob Bjerke, City of Regina's Housing Co-ordinator at (306)777-7533 or via email: rbjerke@regina.ca



Preliminary Design for Solar Affordable Senior Housing - by Jiang Zhu, McGill University Affordable Homes Program. One of seven sites considered in the Regina Solar Affordable Housing Design Project a collaboration between McGill University, City of Regina, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation and CMHC. Image Courtesy of the City of Regina Urban Planning Division.



The proud owner moved into Regina's "Healthy House" in September 2005. The affordable home includes modular panels for a faster build, an open and accessible floor plan, maximum use of natural light while reducing summer heat gain, an energy-efficient boiler that provides under-floor heating and hot water for the home, and a design that fits the neighbourhood and can be changed as the owners' needs change. (Photo courtesy of CMHC, drawing courtesy of Robinson Residential Design in Regina.)

Feasibility Study: Housing for People with FASD in Regina

Over 25 organizations have been networking in Regina, Saskatchewan since 2002 to help people with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), which is a complex life-long disability that affects cognitive, behavioural and physical functions. Because of the need to explore housing, three of these organizations (The Saskatchewan FAS Network, The Regina FASD Community Network and the Regina Community Clinic) partnered together to apply for funding through the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative (NHI), and the outcome was the completion of a Feasibility Study into Housing for People with FASD.

Twenty-seven documents relating to homelessness, FASD and housing were analyzed and consultations were also held with the community, which included personal interviews and focus groups. In all, over 70 people, both from within and outside Regina, were interviewed to explore many facets of the lives of people with FASD. Fourteen people directly affected by FASD were interviewed, including nine people with FASD and five parents. They ranged in age from 16 to 38 years old. The group was split down the middle along gender lines, seven being male, seven female.

A number of common themes were noted when the interview and focus group results were analyzed.

- The recognition that housing alone will not answer the needs of people with FASD. A critical component of housing for many people with FASD is consistent and frequent supports throughout their lifetimes.
- The staff working with people who have FASD need to be highly trained, have low workloads and access to a team of professionals to provide support and updated programming.
- Programming must be in line with the individual needs of the person with FASD, so that they are involved in activities in which they feel comfortable and productive.

Three-pronged Approach

The following three-pronged approach was recommended.

(1) Education of the community

The community needs to build its capacity to prevent disabilities and to work better with those who have FASD. Education needs to occur on three levels, which includes general public education, general education of front-line workers and focused, specific training for professionals.

(2) Development of a continuum of relevant supports

People with FASD have complex needs, and as such, no one agency can offer all of the services required. The model proposed allows for highly personalized care from the service delivery agencies already in the community, and encourages the active involvement of the client and collaboration among community members.

(3) Development of physical housing options

There is a need for housing options for people with FASD, where the options include support services. The community indicated that organizations should partner together to focus on developing housing options within existing programs or developing new options that would better accommodate people with FASD.

These three prongs must be connected so that housing, supports and education can be coordinated to effectively serve the particular needs of individual clients.

For more information on the Feasibility Study: Housing for People with FASD, please contact the National Secretariat on Homelessness at <http://www.homelessness.gc.ca/> or call Alicia McGregor at the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation at (306)787-1998 or via email: amcgregor@dcre.gov.sk.ca

Hamilton Produces Socioeconomic and Demographic “Snapshots” to Address Affordability

To address concerns of Hamilton residents, local housing affordability issues were researched in the report *Socio-economic and Demographic “Snapshots” of Housing Affordability Concerns: Renter Households in Hamilton, Ontario, 1981-2001* with a specific emphasis on renter households in the first household income quintile. The City of Hamilton obtained special data tabulations from the 1981, 1991 and 2001 Census of Canada and conducted detailed time series analyses of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of renter households experiencing housing affordability problems. Between 1981 and 2001, the data pinpoints the “who,” “what,” “why,” and “how” of housing affordability problems affecting renter households in Hamilton. It is believed that the use of this detailed Census data in a municipal context is unique in Ontario, and is an important tool to establish, implement and promote various government housing policies and programs at the local municipal level. The report therefore represents an important step forward in filling a research and policy gap on housing affordability issues for Canadians who reside in mid-size, post-industrial, urban municipalities.

The “snapshots” of renter households in the former City of Hamilton in 1981, 1991 and 2001 identified a shift of renter households to the first or lowest income quintile,

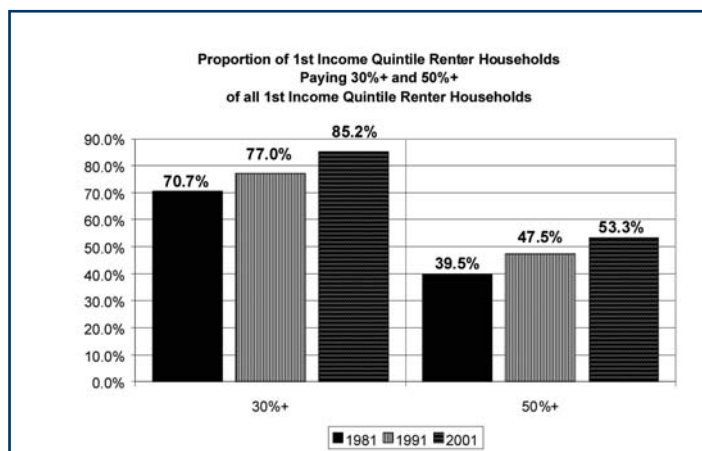
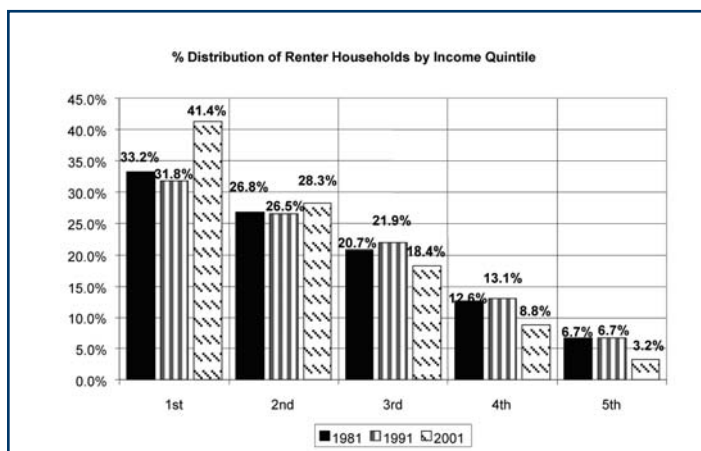
particularly over the 1991 to 2001 period. At the same time, an increasing proportion of all Hamilton renter households, and those within the first or lowest income quintile, experienced housing affordability problems. A range of economic, housing market, lifestyle and government policy decisions have contributed to this shift and increased housing affordability concerns including

- the absence of a new supply of rental housing opportunities targeted at the moderate and upper-end of the housing marketplace, potentially attracting higher-income households to a rental situation
- renter households increasingly motivated to move into homeownership due to the cost effectiveness of owning versus renting, and the ability to exercise greater individual creativity with one's living environment—the “Trading Spaces” phenomenon
- an increasing proportion of older post-secondary children in the early stages of their work career remaining in the parental home as opposed to moving out and forming a new household that typically would be rental
- no new construction of social housing thus creating a supply shortfall of rental housing options for very low-income households who would pay rent geared to their income at a 30 per cent threshold.

Of particular concern was that without programmatic and policy intervention, there is a component of the population that is becoming increasingly vulnerable to homelessness and this disturbing trend could be the beginnings of a permanent “underclass” in the urban community.

The study authors believe that a range of solutions is required as there is no single response to these growing housing needs and escalating social concerns. In a research context, an important next step would be to evaluate the housing careers of renter households beginning in 1981 and their path to their respective situation in 2001. Longitudinal analysis would allow researchers to more clearly identify the dynamics of the housing market at the household level within the framework of the social, economic, demographic and policy conditions evident in the Hamilton landscape.

For more information contact Erin Mifflin, Housing Programs Officer, Employment, Housing and Long-Term Care Division, at (905) 546-2424, extension 7620 or via email at EMifflin@hamilton.ca, or Keith Extance, Program Manager, Housing Development and Partnerships at 905-546-2424 ext. 3745 or via email: kextance@hamilton.ca.



Canada Hosts UN-HABITAT'S World Urban Forum III



What is the World Urban Forum?

From June 19 to 23, 2006, Vancouver will be host to the World Urban Forum (WUF), with the overarching theme of: "Our Future: Sustainable Cities Turning Ideas into Action." The third session of the World Urban Forum, which takes place every two years, will bring together as many as 10,000 people to debate ideas and issues about urban development in a global context of rapid change.

Launched in 2002 by UN-HABITAT, the WUF is quickly becoming the premier international event devoted to the critical issues of cities and communities, such as affordable housing and sustainable infrastructure. Also highlighted will be the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, with their emphasis on shelter, slum upgrading and water and sanitation improvements.

The Forum will include six dialogues on WUF sub-themes; 130 networking events for interaction and exchange, roundtables, side events, and an Exhibition showcasing projects, case studies, experiences and best practices in urban sustainability from around the world. As part of the preparations for the 3rd World Urban Forum, the Government of Canada, in partnership with UN-HABITAT, will sponsor a global 72-hour Internet event—the JAM.

From December 1st to 3rd, 2005, the Habitat JAM will gather input and create actionable ideas for the 2006 Vancouver World Urban Forum agenda and add richness to the Forum's content. During the three-day Habitat JAM, people from around the world will take part in discussions. The JAM will help forge a holistic view on some of the most urgent and controversial issues that face a rapidly urbanizing planet—issues that can only be solved through broad, global consensus.

What is the Habitat JAM?

Imagine tens of thousands of people around the world connecting in real time over the Internet to discuss and debate key issues about urban sustainability. Imagine world-class thinkers leading and moderating the discussions. Imagine new global networks being fostered between people who wouldn't have connected before. Imagine the results that could be achieved by this unprecedented global conversation and collaboration. This is Habitat JAM.

Who will take part in the Habitat JAM?

Young and old, rich and poor; people whose ideas are not usually heard in global discussions will participate in the Habitat JAM. More than 100,000 diverse people will join representatives from national and local governments, international organizations, urban planners and architects, grassroots organizations and global NGOs, experts and academics. Key thinkers will help draw a unique and enormous crowd to this pioneering event.

What is a JAM?

The JAM offers a radically new form of democratic and pragmatic engagement, one that promises to empower people to take charge of the decisions and forces that affect their lives. A JAM is an Internet-based event and idea stimulation vehicle. A democratic process without hierarchy, it offers people from all walks of life the opportunity to come together to present and evaluate ideas on how to solve a focused set of issues or problems. Together they pioneer a new form of global problem-solving to create a vision, build consensus, and turn goals into reality in a world without boundaries. The JAM technology uses familiar Web browsers, allowing registered users to post comments in the forums, respond, create dialogue and interact with others around the world.

What topics will be discussed at the JAM?

The content of the Habitat JAM will focus on urban sustainability issues for both developed and developing countries, related to the themes of the World Urban Forum. Subject matter experts and moderators will add their expertise, so the JAM's discussion framework will continue to evolve throughout the three-day event.

*For more information on the World Urban Forum and to express interest in the Habitat JAM contact: WUF Canada Secretariat: www.wuf3-fum3.ca
General Inquiries: (613) 954-4190
UN HABITAT: www.unhabitat.org/wuf/2006
Habitat JAM: www.habitatjam.com*

Update on Canadian Centre for Housing Technology Research Results



Interest in small, alternative power generation technology is growing, and Canadian companies are leading the development of residential combined heat and power (CHP) systems. Although this technology (also called cogeneration) has shown promise as a means of providing backup power to grid-connected houses and primary power to remote communities, it had not been tested in controlled, real-world situations until recently.

All that changed in 2003 when the Canadian Centre for Housing Technology (CCHT) in Ottawa decided to refit its twin-house research facility to allow for testing of residential CHP systems. The houses' electrical systems were also modified to enable surplus electricity to be fed back to the power grid. As a result, a wealth of information and experience was developed in installation, commissioning, monitoring and analyzing the performance of residential co-generation systems.

Test Houses a Boon to Innovators

The two identical two-storey houses have been giving Canadian manufacturers a competitive advantage in the global marketplace since the 1990s by providing an intensively monitored model home environment where new technologies can be tested and refined. Built to R-2000 specifications, the homes use automated controls to simulate human occupancy and sophisticated computer equipment for data gathering.

Jointly operated by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the National Research Council and Natural Resources Canada, the CCHT uses its unique facilities for various housing-related demonstration, testing and benchmarking experiments. Windows, heating systems, ductwork and controls can be altered or replaced in both houses, but one usually serves as a control unit, while the other is modified to allow side-by-side comparison.

On-going Energy-Efficiency Research

In 2000, the buildings were used to establish performance benchmarks for different kinds of natural gas-fired combination water-heating/space-heating systems, demonstrating that such CHP systems can meet real-life demands in a dwelling.

In 2002, the houses also provided a perfect setting in which to evaluate the performance of high-efficiency electric motors in forced-air heating and cooling applications—a study that pronounced the motors particularly beneficial in houses that operate their furnace fans in continuous ventilation mode.

Another recent set of experiments evaluated the effect of thermostat settings on household energy performance, as well as on the house in general. The experiments showed that use of a thermostat setback has significant potential as an effective and inexpensive energy-saving method, even in an energy-efficient house.

Test results need to be applied with care, however, since R-2000 houses differ significantly from their conventional counterparts. For instance, findings from the thermostat setback experiments cannot be generalized to older conventional

homes, which do not hold heat as well. Older houses, with their lower-quality windows and insulation, are likely to see ambient temperatures drop more during thermostat setback. This would likely lead to condensation problems, especially if the setback is too significant.

To obtain copies of any of these CCHT research highlights online, visit CMHC's order desk www.cmhc.ca or call 1 800 668-2642. For more information about the twin-house research facility, please contact Ken Ruest, CMHC's Technical Research Committee representative for the Canadian Centre for Housing Technology, (613) 748-2329. For research inquiries or information about initiating a research project at the CCHT, contact Mike Swinton: National Research Council, (613) 993-9708; e-mail Mike.Swinton@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca. You can also visit CCHT's website at www.ccht-cctr.gc.ca to learn more.

This type of model environment is the only one of its kind in North America



The CCHT research and demonstration facility, developed in 1998, features two highly instrumented, identical R-2000 homes with simulated occupancy to evaluate the whole-house performance of new technologies in side-by-side testing. Photo: Ken Ruest, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

First Nations Guidelines for Healthy Housing

Methods to Achieve Environmentally Sustainable Community Development

The reality of the situation of many First Nations is that they have reached a critical stage in their housing and community development. The study *First Nations Guidelines for Healthy Housing and Methods to Achieve Environmentally Sustainable Community Development* found that the poor housing on reserves has a negative effect on health, education and the overall social conditions of First Nation members and the community at large. It also found that some of the main concerns that must be addressed before First Nations are able to progress efficiently and effectively with the development of their housing portfolio include

- severe overcrowding
- poor construction practices
- inadequate homeowner and tenant maintenance regimes
- inadequate funding opportunities
- the inability to access capital

Presently, material choice, products and manufactured housing systems are seldom designed to meet the specific economic, social and cultural realities of First Nation members.

This study will have a direct positive effect in resolving some of these issues. For those First Nations that opt to establish Healthy Housing™ principles, they can work with the guidelines and methods to achieve environmentally and economically sustainable communities as their community norm. The study intends to guide all First Nation communities, and other organizations relevant to them, to working towards Healthy Housing.

In particular, the study provides communities with a step-by-step explanation of the elements required to begin the process to achieve sustainable communities. These notions are based on the principles of Healthy Housing and Seventh generation planning, and are derived with a social conscience toward our environment.

On-reserve housing is fundamentally different and far more complex than off-reserve housing. First Nations housing is governed by

The study takes an in-depth look at the five principles of Healthy Housing™ which are:

- occupant health
- efficient energy use
- efficient use of natural resources
- environmental responsibility
- affordability

the legal framework defined in the *Indian Act*. Many practices and approaches taken for granted in off-reserve housing development cannot be applied to housing development in First Nation communities.

Mortgages, creative rental mechanisms, required services and infrastructure demanded by the Canadian public, chartered banks and insurance companies are non-existent in First Nation communities.

Until recently, housing had not been viewed as an investment by either the occupant or the community. As a result of these underlying issues that continue to plague First Nations housing development, on-reserve housing units are not being constructed as well as they could be. They are not cared for as much as they should be and as a result do not last as long as they should.

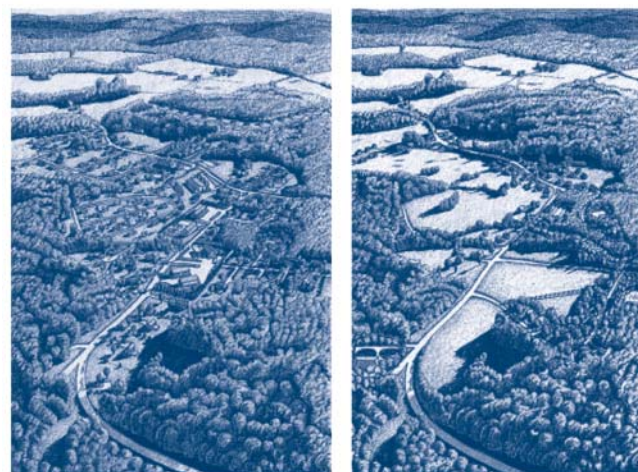
Some of the methods, strategies and concepts being used by some First Nations communities include

- environmental management system to regulate community development
- strategy for natural resource use and development
- land use strategy

- long-term strategy for infrastructure and capital projects development
- long-term strategy for housing development
- strategy for human resource development
- administrative and management training strategy for housing and infrastructure development
- housing policy and program development strategy
- a regionally or bio-regionally based strategy to develop a services and materials bulk buying group
- a regionally or bio-regionally based closed-loop economic system to service and support the areas of jurisdiction

Morgan Green, the author of the study, maintains that "to achieve the good health and well-being of our generations yet to come we must always keep in mind maintaining for as long as we can, our forests, our fresh water supply, a natural agricultural productivity process and the ecological integrity of our bio-regions."

For more information contact: Morgan Green, Projects Manager, OASIS: (519)752-3836, or via email: megreen@sympatico.ca



Conventional

Alternate

Architecture for Elder Health in Remote British Columbia: A Nisga'a-Led Research Project

Cultural leaders from the Nisga'a First Nation contributed their knowledge to this research on behalf of their home villages of New Aiyansh, Gitwinksihlkw, Laxgalts'ap, and Gingolx, all located in the Nass River Valley of Northern British Columbia.

The goal was to understand the changing context of Elder housing so that landscape, architectural and planning decisions affecting Elders' lives can be based upon an understanding of processes that influence community health.

Primary and secondary research was gathered in four stages.

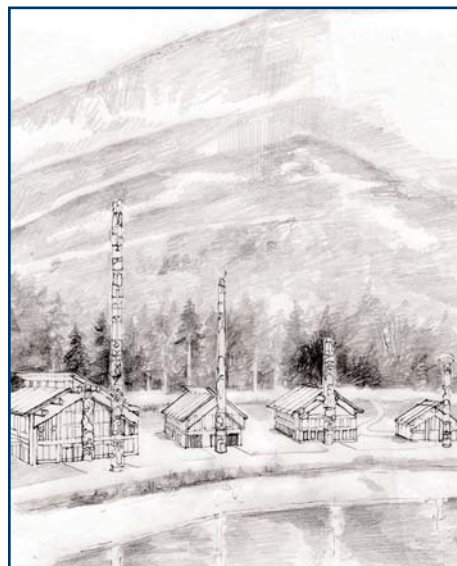
1. A history of architecture and its influences on Elder health within the study region was assembled from literature and from interviews held with Elders.
2. A geography of Elder housing and support services available in Northern British Columbia in 2005 was collected and summarized in a Geographic Information System database.
3. A workshop was held with selected Nisga'a cultural leaders to establish key principles through which architecture can enhance Elder health in remote regions.
4. Research participants' comments and examples from across Canada suggested how the ideas can be adapted to suit Indigenous remote communities elsewhere in Canada and the world.

The research follows principles of participatory research specified by the Tri-Council and protocols of Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a, the Nisga'a University College. The primary research undertaken was a collection of Nisga'a Elders' insights into how architecture has positive and negative influences on personal and cultural well-being. Those insights were summarized and expanded into a discussion about how the ideas might become workable solutions.

- First, a specific challenge or attribute of the built environment as it relates to health and well-being was summarized from the workshops and interviews.
- Secondly, solutions were proposed that bring together participants' recommendations, Nisga'a and/or Northwest Coast First Peoples' traditions, and some potential present-day solutions found in literature and practice.
- Thirdly, one or more examples were given from First Nations communities across Canada who met the architecture/health challenge.
- Fourthly, the range of applicability of each idea was established through research participants comments and a range of bibliographic sources.

Lessons from Architectural History

When Northwest Coast architectural history was correlated with history of health in the study region, it was apparent that construction ideas learned over countless generations helped people to remain strong despite environmental or social changes such as glaciation, volcanoes, the reservation system and residential schools.



A drawing of a modern "wilp" village by Dr. Nancy Mackin, used with permission

Respect for the environment, a key principle in Northwest Coast architectural history, translated into detailing and harvesting practices that ensured resources would continue to be available for future generations.

The massive pole-and-beam house, called *wilp* in Nisga'a, was constructed of woods, mosses, sinew ropes and other sustainable harvested products. Each house accommodated a matrilineal extended family, also called *wilp*, reflecting the close connection between dwelling and social structure. Traditional housing reinforced Elder health by accommodating the extended family who could ensure Elders lived comfortably into advanced age, providing easy connections between exterior food preparation areas and interior cooking areas, and reserving areas closest to the centre of the longhouse or village for Elders.

By contrast, the study found that architectural designs imposed upon British Columbia's First Peoples in the twentieth century did not consider mobility challenges associated with aging, used materials and building practices that led to unhealthy mould and fungi, were designed without consideration for traditional food preparations and extended family gatherings, and neglected to involve communities in design or construction.

Geography of Housing and Health in Remote Northern British Columbia

Few remote British Columbian communities offer alternative housing forms and Elder day programs that would enable Elders with restricted health or mobility to remain near their homelands. Most Elders prefer a combined facility that allows continuum in care: care that extends across many levels so the person does not have to move if mobility or health decline, and couples with differing care needs can live in the same facility.

continued on page 16

Iqaluit's Sustainable Arctic Subdivision Feasibility Study

The city of Iqaluit has very recently experienced unprecedented growth. In the five-year period between 1996 and 2001, the city population grew by 24 per cent, from 4,840 to its current population of 6,000 people, making it the second fastest growing community in Canada over this time period.

A projected average growth rate of the population of 3.0 per cent in the next 15 years will put stress on much of the city's municipal infrastructure and has already resulted in inadequate water and sewer infrastructure, dwindling supplies of readily available granular sources and solid waste issues. In addition, growth has created a severe housing shortage and a demand for all types of land uses.

As the community was already straining to serve existing residents, Iqaluit sought and received funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Enabling Funds, and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to conduct a sustainable arctic subdivision feasibility study. The purpose of the study was to explore best practices in sustainable development that can be applied to an arctic subdivision.

A Consultation Strategy was presented and approved by Iqaluit's Council on April 27th, 2004. The purpose of the Consultation Strategy was to ensure that meaningful consultation with Iqaluit residents, elected

officials, City staff and other key stakeholders was undertaken throughout the planning process.

Defining Sustainable Development

There are many definitions of, and approaches to, sustainable development. For the purpose of this study, sustainable development was taken to mean:

The ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Sustainable development was recognized to have three dimensions: environmental, social and economic. It considers these three dimensions and examines how they contribute to resource efficiency, affordability and occupancy well-being. Sustainable development for Iqaluit, therefore, needed to be based on the vision and needs of the city and its residents, as well as the resources of the community.

In a community such as Iqaluit, with its varied social concerns (Inuit and non-Inuit), sensitive environment and high energy costs, the justification for and benefits of sustainable development practices are even more evident than in southern Canadian communities.

Feasibility Study Goals

Goal 1: Demonstrate the benefits of sustainable development to residents, community stakeholders, municipal staff and council, builders and developers.

Goal 2: Develop best practice options for a sustainable arctic subdivision that can be applied to a concept plan for The Plateau, used to guide future development in the city of Iqaluit; and serve as a model for other arctic communities.

Goal 3: Reduce water, energy and resource consumption by implementing sustainable and energy-efficient approaches to housing design, municipal infrastructure, transportation and land-use.

Goal 4: Engage the community in the planning and design process to ensure recommendations for a sustainable

subdivision and the resulting concept plan are culturally and socially appropriate for community residents.

Results

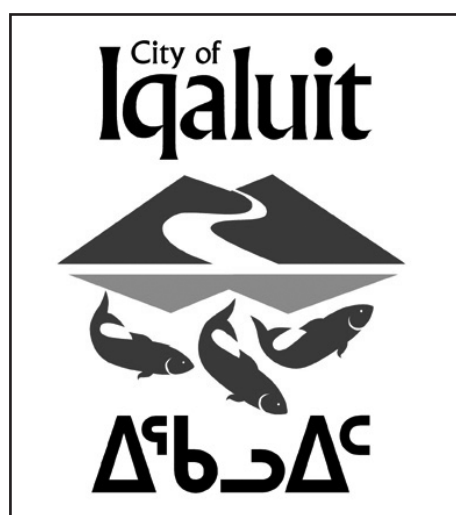
The Feasibility Study, completed in December 2004, recommended sustainable development options for an arctic climate and applied them to the case study area —The Plateau. The Plateau is an area in northwest Iqaluit, consisting of 25 hectares.

The Plateau Subdivision site layout, development standards and policies will, amongst other things

- improve occupant health by introducing the R-2000 standard, requiring heat recovery ventilators as a ventilation standard in all housing and requiring solar orientation of all buildings and dwelling units
- significantly reduce per capita consumption of key resources such as water, diesel fuel, heating oil, gasoline and granular resources
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- protect significant environmental features on the site
- provide a higher level of active and passive recreational opportunities than previous neighbourhoods
- achieve lower costs for the City on an ongoing basis for both operating and upgrading of municipal infrastructure costs
- support a greater awareness of sustainability issues and sustainable building practices that could be applied throughout the city.

The Feasibility Study explored sustainable development best practices that will now be applied to an arctic subdivision. This exciting project will see the development of Iqaluit's first subdivision guided by sustainable development practices. The application of the knowledge gathered from the Feasibility Study will result in substantial achievements.

For more information on this study, contact Michèle Bertol, Director of Planning and Lands, City of Iqaluit (867)979-5660 or via email: M.Bertol@City.Iqaluit.NU.CA



Urban Dakota & Dene Quality of Life Indicators Project in Winnipeg



In early 2005, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) Research and Policy Development Unit released "Urban Dene & Dakota Quality of Life (QOL) Indicators Project: Phase I Final Report." The purpose of this project was to assess and examine the urban experience of two First Nations cultural groups in central Canada—the Dakota and Dene—through engaging these groups in identifying and developing meaningful and appropriate QOL indicators.

This project was a response to the need to raise awareness of First Nations peoples' unique life experiences and perspectives, to develop tools to accurately assess First Nations well-being, and to use these tools to advocate and make meaningful changes to policies, programs and services that affect First Nations peoples.

This report documents activities undertaken in Phase I of two phases in the overall project. Phase I involved the preliminary identification of QOL indicators and development of associated surveys to enable urban Dakota and Dene to tell their story and experience of urban life. Eleven Dakota and twelve Dene people engaged in six discussions each over the course of sixteen weeks, and came together for a traditional feast at the end of this phase. Unique to this project was a blend of both Indigenous and Western research methods, which are discussed in detail in the report.

Most Dakota participants had lived in Winnipeg all of their life, with equal numbers living in houses and apartments. Most lived with relatives, but there did not seem to be

any overcrowded situations. In the case of the Dene, most lived in rented apartments, which they did not consider to be affordable. All aspired to own their own home.

Phase I of this project was funded by the Winnipeg Inner-City Research Alliance (WIRA) of the Institute of Urban Studies, University of Winnipeg.

Phase I Findings

Phase I of the project found the following.

- Culture is an important and key theme of quality of life for Dakota and Dene living in Winnipeg.
- According to the preliminary Quality of Life indicators identified by Dakota participants in this project, Dakota people in Winnipeg are doing well, with the exception of sustaining and strengthening their culture in the city.
- One cross-cutting theme amongst both Urban Dakota and Dene indicators is "living situations and experiences."
- According to the preliminary indicators identified by Dene participants in this project, Dene people in Winnipeg face many challenges and difficulties, including an overwhelming sense of disconnection and lack of sense of belonging. Much needs to be done to improve their situation.
- Both the urban Dakota and Dene people turn to their own First Nations governments and institutions, and themselves, to improve their situations.

- Due to the unique cultures and cultural perspectives of Dakota and Dene people living in Winnipeg, it is important that separate and distinct Quality of Life indicators, and resulting surveys, be respected and maintained.

Although the project did not explore the underlying reasons for the difference in indicators of the urban Dakota and Dene participation, the research participants' discussions clearly point to a combination of

- (a) distance and displacement from their home territory
- (b) the comparative cultural-historical trauma, and the consequent disruption of transmission of culture, which is central for both Dene and Dakota quality of life
- (c) different experiences of political disconnection

Phase II of this project is scheduled to begin in late fall 2005, after funding has been identified. This final phase will involve further developing and refining the preliminary QOL indicators and surveys by some participants of Phase I with First Nations technicians, administering the resulting surveys, analyzing the data, and sharing results with decision-makers of all levels of government and First Nations governments.

For more information contact Keely Ten Fingers at (204)956-0610 ext. 102 or via email: ktenfingers@manitobachiefs.com

Architecture For Elder Health in Remote British Columbia: A Nisga'a-Led Research Project (continued from page 14)

Workshop Recommendations and Examples from Remote Communities Elsewhere

Participants recommended the building of a cultural village that would involve young people in traditional practices and

construction while recognizing the vital role of Elders in community well-being.

The cultural village would accommodate all ages and would include housing based on longhouse principles, educational facilities, buildings for traditional resource management, and facilities for Elders integrated with education, health, social and cultural services.

For more information contact Dr. Nancy Mackin MAIBC PhD, at nma@direct.ca or Deanna Nyce, M.Ed, CEO of Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a at (250)633-2292 or via email: deannanyce_wwn@navigata.net