

Aboriginal Housing Society of Prince George

ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 27, 2016



ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Lindsey Antosko

Welcome to the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Aboriginal Housing Society of Prince George. Thank you to the Lheidli T'enneh for allowing us to do business within their territory. We look forward to more partnership opportunities as we move ahead. Thank you to the Metis community for their contribution towards this organization and for the betterment of their people living in and around Prince George.

I would also like to thank the Board members for their commitment, dedication, and support throughout the past year. There has been a lot of change and new activities this past year.

I want recognize the staff for their hard work and commitment this past year. Staff have taken on more work as we have diversified into Rural and Native Housing, market housing and homeownership have undergone some detailed and complex research. You have all adapted well to the constant change.

Thank you to our tenants who live in the homes and for taking care of the houses, paying rent on time, asking for help and letting us know when there are problems needing attention. Without you, we would not be here. We have made some positive steps towards better communication and response times when there are problems. We appreciate your patience and understanding and cooperation as we journey through constant change.

I would also like to take this time to thank our former Executive Director, Leo Hebert. The amount of time, dedication, effort, abilities, drive and persistence is a big reason the organization has come to where it has. We would like to thank Leo Hebert and also wish him well on all his future endeavors.

I would also like to take this time to recognize our new Executive Director, Christos Vardacostas who started in October 2016.

Our non-profit housing society plans and operates within a quarterly cycle based upon the seasons. We are blessed with living in an area where we enjoy all four seasons. Summer, fall, winter, and spring. As part of our vision to incorporate indigenous ways of doing business and working with community, we have structured our planning and reporting by seasons. Our ancestors were always preparing for the next season, especially the long cold and dark winter where food needed to be prepared and stored for survival. We each played a role in ensuring our community survived into the next season by working together. We are working towards rekindling this philosophy and our old ways of life into our modern, urban existence.

Over this past year we have made excellent progress in some areas and limited movement in others. We struggle with challenging issues as a result of drugs and alcohol and family violence. We are working with others who have the capacity and credentials to provide support and help for individuals and families who find themselves in these circumstances.

The following is a brief summary of some of the key projects, issues, and programs we are presently working with.

RURAL AND NATIVE HOUSING (RNH)



We work in partnership with Makola Housing to manage 108 RNH units throughout northern BC. To date, 56 of those units have been transferred to AHSPG. We received the units "as is" and many require extensive upgrades. Over the next 3 years, the remaining 52 units will be transferred to PGMHS. We are in the beginning stages of talking with local First Nations and Aboriginal organizations, and municipalities about developing strategies that best support the local communities' members. We work closely with AHMA who also manage

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RNH units in the same areas. We are also currently in the process of assessing these units for possible homeownership possibilities.

COMMUNITY VOICE MAIL (CVM)

The Community Voice Mail program has been operational for almost three years. The objective to promote self-sufficiency has been proven to be successful. 365 clients have utilized this service and we have confirmed that least 1/3 of the exited clients have obtained employment, training and housing.

The Program is currently funded through the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, Urban Aboriginal Working Group, and United Way of Northern British Columbia. The City of Prince George and Prince George Community Development have also made recent contributions.

Employment agencies are the key points of contact for distributing phone numbers to clients. Thus far, Work BC, Northern John Howard's Employment Access, and PGNAETA are the primary service locations.

We have made an impact with a number of individuals who would have otherwise lost contact with their supports, without access to the CVM. We are continuously pursuing funding to keep this valuable program in operation. Thank you to those who have sponsored numbers and have contributed to the success of the program.

Additional promotional efforts are underway to be implemented in 2016/2017.

A more detailed current report will be made available on our website.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

We have been planning, designing, engaging the community, and have applied to BC Housing, to develop a new three-storey multi-family housing development that will provide 27 new affordable rental units to Elders/Seniors. Re-zoning and – parceling efforts brought support and a change of address for this initiative, now to be located at 1811 Spruce Street. Our Board has committed \$1 million of the Society's funds from recent property sales towards this development. We anticipate funding approval in late 2016 and starting construction in 2017.

Initial planning and an offer, contingent on rezoning, for a property at 1919 17th Avenue have been made, with potential for a large multi-phased community village.

The Board has also authorized social enterprises to become incorporated and governed at arm's length relating to co-ownership and construction and maintenance. Leadership in new developments and social enterprises is being supported with business advisor consultancy resources.

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT YEAR

- Continue on the Design for Spruce Street and 1919 17th Avenue
- Skoo Financial and Homeownership opportunities
- Capital Planning
- ABODE Enterprises Inc.

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*"We provide safe, healthy, and affordable housing
for Aboriginal people of all incomes, ages, and
capabilities"*

The tip represents our adulthood.

The veins represent the days of our lives and the choices we make.

The fluff at the bottom represents our infancy and our beginning.

The quill represents our inner strength and the path we are on.

The feather is divided into two parts. Male or female, good or bad, right or wrong and so on.

