



National Aboriginal Housing Association/Association Nationale d'Habitation Autochtone

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NEW DIRECTION AND LEADERSHIP FOR NAHA

“Aboriginal Housing is the worst in Canada, as the 2006 Census and the Aboriginal Peoples’ Survey confirm once again. Homelessness has been on the rise since the federal government abandoned its responsibilities for housing fifteen years ago, and a very large percentage of Aboriginal peoples in Canada are homeless”, says Patrick Stewart, in accepting the presidency of the National Aboriginal Housing Association.

He went on to say that Canada can no longer simply argue that Aboriginal housing is a provincial matter and wash its hands of its responsibility. The federal government must acknowledge its fiduciary duty for Aboriginal peoples and affirm that it has an important role to play in helping Aboriginal peoples obtain suitable housing. This would be a key step toward remedying the current situation which is a blot on Canada’s reputation as a progressive nation.

Mr. Stewart said he was greatly honoured after he was unanimously elected to the position by the NAHA Board. He reminded the Board, however, that much needs to be done to help address the poor housing conditions endured by Aboriginal peoples in urban and other non-Reserve areas in Canada, and asked that they continue to work toward the goal of safe, decent and affordable housing for all Aboriginal peoples.

Patrick Reid Stewart MAIBC, MRAIC, LEED™ AP, a Nisga’a architect whose given name is *Luugigyoo, Wilp Daaxan*, brings a wealth of knowledge, training and experience to the office of President. He had been serving as Vice President of the National Aboriginal Housing Association, and is also in his second term as the elected Chair of the Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee for Metro Vancouver.

Mr. Stewart is the immediate Past-President of the *Architectural Institute of British Columbia* (AIBC) and the founding President of *Tawaak Housing* in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He is a director of a First Nations Resource Development Corporation, *Nass Valley Gateway* and a Board member of the *Architectural Foundation of BC* (AFBC).

Patrick is a graduate of Simon Fraser University (BA), Technical University of Nova Scotia (BEDS, BArch) and McGill University (MArch). He has written for *Architecture BC*, *Canadian Architect*, *City Magazine*, *Context* and *The Peak*. He has been featured in the *Vancouver Sun*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Native Peoples Magazine* and the film documentaries, *Aboriginal Architecture* and *Something to Eat, a Place to Sleep & Someone Who Gives a Damn: A Film About Homelessness*.

Mr. Stewart lives on Tzeachten First Nation near Chilliwack, British Columbia with his partner, Cree fashion designer, Linda LaVallee and family