



RESOLUTIONS

The National Aboriginal Housing Association

l'Association Nationale d'Habitation Autochtone

15th Annual General Meeting

September 25, 2009

Richmond BC

Resolution 1

Support for Kawartha and Otonabee Homes - Peterborough, Ontario

Whereas Aboriginal Peoples of Canada require special targeted, specifically designed programs and allocations due to the over representation of Aboriginal people in housing need as compared to the need of the general population; and,

Whereas one of the core principles of the NAHA is that Aboriginal people must be in control of the operations, management and ownership of Aboriginal housing; and,

Whereas the City of Peterborough has launched a suit against two urban Native corporations namely Kawartha Homes and Otonabee Homes, placing both Corporations in “*receivership*”; and

Whereas the appointed Receiver appears to be working with the City of Peterborough to facilitate the sale of the assets of both Corporations against the wishes of the corporate Aboriginal membership; and,

Whereas the Judge hearing the case has ruled that the two Native owned Corporations being in receivership do not have the right to retain and direct counsel; and ,

Whereas this ruling abrogates the common law right to retain and direct counsel and the legal counsel for the Aboriginal Corporations has given notice to appeal this ruling.

Therefore be it resolved that the NAHA encourage and support housing organizations whose mandate may be jeopardized by the ruling on the “*right to Counsel*” to mount an awareness campaign of the impact of this undertaking of this nature on Aboriginal and other housing corporations ; and,

Be it further resolved that NAHA members and friends commit to support the pending appeals process to the degree possible; and,

Finally, be it resolved that the NAHA take action to advocate for the fair and just resolution of this case, with the goal of both Corporations being returned to Aboriginal control and ownership.

Moved: Marcel Swain, Lu’ma Native Housing Society

Seconded: Sandra Brown, Lloydminster Métis Housing Group Inc.

Carried

Resolution 2

Endorse and commit to the National Aboriginal Housing Action Plan by NAHA members

Whereas NAHA is mandated to advocate for predictable and sustainable funding to preserve existing urban Native housing and to respond to the growing housing need in urban centres and surrounding non-reserve communities and in the north; and

Whereas NAHA has prepared a national call for action entitled “*A Time for Action: A National Plan to Address Aboriginal Housing*” requesting the federal government to establish a non reserve Aboriginal Housing Trust as a funding mechanism to respond to the disproportionate social and affordable housing needs of Canada’s non reserve Aboriginal population;

Therefore be it resolved that the members of the NAHA endorse the national call for action and commit to engage in creating an awareness and acceptance of this plan at the national, provincial, territorial and municipal levels of government.

Moved: David Seymour, M’akola Group of (Housing) Societies

Seconded: Sandra Brown, Lloydminster Métis Housing Group Inc

Carried

Resolution 3

Advocating for Acceptance of the Action Plan by all Levels of Governments

Whereas NAHA and its members have endorsed a national Plan of Action for Aboriginal housing which is designed to: Prevent the further growth in Aboriginal Housing need; Reduce and equalize core housing need as compared to the general population; Preserve and improve existing Aboriginal housing supply; Reduce Aboriginal homelessness; and Increase Aboriginal home ownership; and

Whereas this plan calls on the Federal government to establish a multi-year National Aboriginal Housing Trust to continue addressing Aboriginal housing need in Canada;

Therefore be it resolved that NAHA and its member organizations advocate at all levels of government to create an awareness, acceptance and commitment of governments to the National Aboriginal Housing Plan; and

Be it further resolved that members of NAHA call on the Federal Government to include NAHA and other Urban / Rural Native Housing Providers to establish a Board of Aboriginal Trustees comprised of equal representations (as defined in the constitution) who have backgrounds and expertise in housing to direct the allocation of funds and to manage the investment of these funds to achieve established housing targets; and

Finally, be it resolved that NAHA advocate with the Board of Aboriginal Trustees to direct the allocation of funds on behalf of Urban / Rural Aboriginal Housing providers.

Moved: Marcel Swain, Lu'ma Native Housing Society

Seconded: Larry Bellerose, Ontario Aboriginal Housing Support Services Corporation

Carried

Resolution 4

More engagement by NAHA member organizations in addressing Aboriginal Homelessness

Whereas studies in larger Canadian cities affirm that Aboriginal families, men, women and children are over represented among the homeless population; and

Whereas there is continuing evidence of increasing numbers in the Aboriginal homeless ranks; and

Whereas there is no clear Aboriginal specific data upon which to measure performance;

Therefore be it resolved that NAHA's member organizations embrace the concept of "*homes first*" in addressing Aboriginal homelessness; and

Be it further resolved that NAHA members collaborate with established shelters serving Aboriginal clients to provide improved access to supportive and independent living by Aboriginal homeless persons; and

Finally, be it resolved that NAHA encourage members, in areas where the need for shelter and services for the Aboriginal homeless is the greatest, to develop Aboriginal specific emergency and supportive shelters to address this need in their affordable community housing plans.

Moved: Patrick Stewart, Vancouver Homelessness Committee

Seconded: Leah Link, Prince Albert Community Housing Society Inc

Carried

Resolution 5

Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) Tracking Aboriginal Homelessness

Whereas the HIFIS Initiative administered by Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) facilitates more efficient operations at the homeless shelter level by putting in place the tools, training and agreements needed to gather comprehensive data on shelter use by the homeless population; and

Whereas HIFIS software allows shelters and other service providers to record client-level information to manage their services; and

Whereas the software, training, and user support are available free to shelters and service providers across Canada via a toll-free national support desk number or email address; and

Whereas established partnerships provides an opportunity for shelters and service providers to obtain free computers, software, and technical support to meet their technological needs; and

Whereas Aboriginal peoples are over represented among the homeless populations with limited Aboriginal specific information available on their numbers and use of shelters;

Therefore be it resolved that NAHA collaborate with HRSDC and with shelter providers with the objective of compiling Aboriginal specific national data on Aboriginal homelessness and shelter use, and

Finally, be it resolved that NAHA and its member organizations commit to publishing a national annual report to create a greater understanding of the depth of the Aboriginal homelessness crisis and to establish base line data on which to measure progress and to begin curbing the increasing rate of homelessness of Aboriginal people.

Moved: Jim Durocher Camponi Housing Corporation, (Saskatoon)

Seconded: Tracy Sauvé, Anduhyaun Inc, Toronto

Carried

Resolution 6

Endorsement of Bill C-304 National Housing Strategy - Libby Davis

Whereas Bill C-304, an Act to ensure secure, adequate, accessible, and affordable housing for Canadians was put forth as a private members bill by MP Libby Davies and was subjected to first reading on February 10, 2009; and,

Whereas the Bill calls for CMHC officials to consult with provincial Ministers, municipalities and Aboriginal communities in order to establish a national housing strategy; and

Whereas the Bill is inclusive of Aboriginal representatives in this consultation and development process; and

Whereas NAHA and its member organizations are well positioned to contribute positively to the establishment of the Act to be known as the “*Secure, Adequate, Accessible and Affordable Housing Act*” and are committed to a National Housing Strategy that is inclusive of targeted Non-Reserve Aboriginal housing under Aboriginal control;

Therefore be it resolved that NAHA and its member organizations publicly endorse Bill C-304;

Finally, be it resolved that the Board of Directors of NAHA support Bill C-304, and that includes intervention and advocacy with municipal, provincial and Federal Ministers and officials having responsibility for housing and be consistent with the research Report “*A Plan for Action: National Plan to Address Aboriginal Housing*”

Moved: David Seymour, M’akola Group of (Housing) Societies

Seconded: Patrick Stewart, Vancouver Homelessness Committee

Carried

Resolution 7

Aboriginal Administration of Assisted Aboriginal Home Ownership Programs

Whereas Aboriginal people (54%) are underrepresented in Canada's home owner population compared to the other Canadians (68%); and

Whereas the federal and provincial governments are challenged with stimulating the struggling economy and maintaining jobs for Canadian workers; and

Whereas there is currently a stable housing market combined with access to moderate interest rate mortgage funds, and the housing industry is recognized as having a positive dual impact on both housing commodities and jobs; and

Whereas the existing federal/provincial urban Aboriginal Housing Trust Agreements include support to assist home ownership; and

Whereas urban Aboriginal housing corporations are best positioned to promote homeownership among their tenant populations and community members, create an awareness of the benefits and practicality of home ownership, and engage bankers, realtors, appraisers, solicitors and governments in workable models of delivery;

Therefore be it resolved that where governments and/or corporations are delivering assisted home ownership programs to Canadians that Aboriginal housing corporations establish working relationships to enhance access by Aboriginal people to the programs offered and to determine the level of success these institutions are having in meeting the needs of Aboriginal applicants seeking to buy a home; and

Be it further resolved that NAHA in collaboration with its member organizations develop a comprehensive Aboriginal assisted home ownership portable program model that can be administered and delivered relative to the needs and resources; and

Finally, be it resolved that NAHA call on its member organizations to lobby provincial and territorial governments to direct a share of the assisted home ownership funds to the stewardship of Aboriginal corporations.

Moved: Ray Hamilton, Métis Urban Housing Assn. of Saskatchewan

Seconded: Sandra Brown, Lloydminster Métis Housing Group Inc.

Carried

Resolution 8

Advocate federal recognition and implementation of the right to housing

Whereas Canada's failure to respond to the homelessness crises is in violation of its international commitments including the Declaration of Human Rights and is a violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms specifically Section 7, which guarantees the right to life, liberty and security of the person, and Section 15, which guarantees the equal protection and benefit of the law without discriminate; and

Whereas Aboriginal people are over represented in the homeless population by as much as a factor of 10; and

Whereas NAHA believes the right to housing should be recognised and affirmed by the Government of Canada;

Therefore be it resolved that NAHA and its member organizations actively promote the "Right to Housing" as its cornerstone of its Aboriginal Housing Strategy; and

Finally, be it resolved that NAHA pursue representation in the Advocacy for Tenants Ontario (ACTO) *Right to Housing Working Group* and support its efforts to file a Charter application in the Ontario Superior Court in the spring of 2010.

Moved: Jim Durocher, Camponi Housing Corporation, Saskatoon

Seconded: David Seymour, M'akola Group of (Housing) Societies

Carried

Resolution 9

Promotion of a National Action Plan to Address Aboriginal Housing

Whereas the National Aboriginal Housing Association (NAHA) and the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) signed a Protocol dated May 4, 2006 committing to support development of more effective housing policies and programs for aboriginal peoples in Canada; and

Whereas the protocol commits NAHA and CAP to work collaboratively in dealing with all levels of government and other organization of like mind on matters of mutual interest that impact non reserve Aboriginal housing; and

Whereas the Protocol envisions the continued cooperative effort among the parties to promote safe, decent and affordable housing for aboriginal peoples;

Therefore be it resolved that NAHA and CAP establish a joint committee to develop and carry out a communication plan to promote NAHA's 2009 action plan: "*A Time for Action: A National Action Plan to Address Aboriginal Housing*"

Moved: Patrick Stewart, Vancouver Homelessness Committee

Seconded: Tracy Sauvé, Anduhyaun Inc, Toronto

Carried

Resolution 10

Housing Standards on Reserves in Canada

Whereas housing standards are currently set at a minimum standard by CMHC and vary throughout our Traditional Territories; and

Whereas housing standards are currently causing the lack of sustainable housing within the First Nation Traditional Territories;

Therefore be it resolved that NAHA call on Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to review and raise minimum standards within our traditional Territories with a view to creating opportunity to develop and build healthy homes that are secure, energy efficient; such as R2000 and the Equilibrium Homes.

Moved: Tracy Sauvé, Anduhyaun Inc, Toronto

Seconded: Leah Link, Prince Albert Community Housing Society Inc.

Carried

RESOLUTION 11

NO to Olympics! YES to Feb 14th Memorial March!

Whereas the City of Vancouver, Olympic officials, and the Vancouver 2010 Integrated Security Unit are trying to change the historic Feb 14, 2010, "*March for Murdered and Missing Women*" in order to ensure 'flow of Olympic traffic' down Hasting Street; and

Whereas resident of the DTES and supporters of the Memorial March, completely oppose any change in date, time, or route of the Memorial March, and this March has been happening for 18 years to honour our sisters who die each year due to the violence of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual abuse; and

Whereas it is far more significant and sacred than the Olympic Games, which have already increased poverty, homelessness, and policing in our neighbourhood.

Therefore be it resolved that NAHA and its member organization support the position of the Downtown East side residents that there be no attempt to change or control the Feb 14th Memorial March and that not a single person will be forcibly removed, evicted or displaced from their homes in the Downtown East Side and any other communities due to the Olympics.

Moved: Patrick Stewart, Vancouver Homelessness Committee

Seconded: Sandra Brown Lloydminster Métis Housing Group Inc.

Carried

Resolution 12

Land Trusts

Whereas it is time to review the landholding of the various Aboriginal Housing Groups and explore alternative methods of holding land to maintain sustainable housing,

Therefore be resolved that the Directors explore alternative methods of land holding and particularly Land trusts with a view to developing alternative methods of sustainable housing.

Moved: Jim Lanigan, Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation, Ottawa

Seconded: Sandra Brown, Lloydminster Métis Housing Group Inc

Carried