

**Regional Tripartite Committee on Housing  
Report on Proceedings  
April 14, 2011, Meeting**

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Present:	Diane McGregor, AFNQL Jimmy Constant, AFNQL Guy Latouche, AFNQL	Jacques Giroux, INAC Bruce Labrador, INAC André Dansereau, INAC Steven Bonspille, CMHC Jean Rattelle, CMHC Pierre Bélanger, CMHC Marie-Claude Cantin, CMHC Costin Botez, CMHC
Absent:	Rémy Bastien, AFNQL, and Matthieu Mellon, INAC	

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**Moderator**

Jean Rattelle

**1. Welcome and introduction**

After the welcome and opening remarks, the agenda of the Regional Tripartite Committee on Housing (RTCH) meeting was adopted without amendment.

**2. National and regional environments**

***Elections and budget***

**INAC**

As far as the budget is concerned, we do not foresee any new money for First Nations. After the elections, we hope that at least the status quo will be maintained with respect to budget and resource allocations.

The launch of the Hydro-Québec hydroelectric development project on the North Shore was mentioned. The project will allow for renewed discussions about the private homeownership development program.

***Housing program compliance***

**INAC**

Program compliance processes are already being used by INAC, and CMHC will be the next organization to adopt such processes. Furthermore, INAC will continue to follow the same approach it used under CEAP with regard to project reporting and monitoring requirements. This practice is linked to the implementation of the “Capital Facilities and Maintenance Program Management Control Framework.”

Over the coming years, no new initiatives are anticipated, but special attention will be focused on improving existing programs, particularly on developing the private homeownership program and ensuring compliance with the agreements.

## **CMHC**

For CMHC, compliance with the housing program agreements remains an issue. Since November 9, 2010, National Office has been working to develop an action plan that will define the new rules. CMHC intends to use its capacity development resources to help communities meet the requirements of the housing program agreements, while maintaining some flexibility towards its clients.

A monitoring protocol for RRAP and the Section 95 program was set up. CMHC also considers that a consultation with its clients and stakeholders must take place as part of its approach to implement a compliance process.

## **Ministerial loan guarantee**

### **INAC**

There is some concern among First Nations representatives over the new capital facilities and reporting requirements to access the ministerial loan guarantee program. These requirements may represent an obstacle in the process of providing a ministerial loan guarantee to a community.

Another major issue is to be able to ensure that, in the process of providing a ministerial loan guarantee, a member of the community who receives a guarantee will not be penalized if the band council encounters financial problems.

## **Innu regional table**

### **INAC**

The conclusions that can be drawn following the third meeting of the Innu regional table are that good collaboration between the communities is being observed more and more and that this is a type of initiative that the committee needs to undertake and encourage.

## **CMHC**

The next step will be to ask the Innu regional table if a representative from the AFNQL can attend the next meeting. Furthermore, with approval from the table, the possibility of inviting a representative from the Algonquin Nation should be explored, to look at whether the model could be exported to that Nation.

### **3. Follow-up of the RTCH action plan**

Here is the status of the seven issues presented in the 2010/2011 RTCH action plan.

#### **1) Health and safety**

CMHC has already forwarded a binder containing a whole series of reference documents to the housing department and the community health representative of each First Nation.

The suggestion to make the online version of the CD available on the AFNQL website was adopted. CMHC will take on the responsibility of providing the CD to the AFNQL.

With regard to the sharing of information on radon, the committee proposes to invite a representative from Health Canada to explain the investigation process and comment on the results.

In the feasibility study on linking the joint procedure in case of emergency to that of the community action plans, the roles of each of the partners remain to be analyzed. The objective is to have a single point of contact for housing issues in each

community and for the three organizations of the RTCH, in order to save time and improve efficiency.

2) Portfolio management

A meeting between INAC and CMHC representatives, which is to take place in a week, is intended to strengthen portfolio management.

The joint action plan for the targeted communities will be developed in 2012. To date, only the findings have been put forward. The proposal to add a new theme was adopted. This theme will deal with compliance and will have the goal of producing a discussion paper to assist CMHC in producing/developing a plan on compliance criteria.

3) Housing needs

The update of the AFNQL study on the housing needs of FNs will be carried out this summer. One of the objectives is to capture the impacts of the 2005 Housing Initiative, the 2008 Regional Housing Initiative and the 2009-2011 CEAP. The update will come with a funding plan.

It is proposed that an overview of the anticipated migration probabilities resulting from Bill C-3 coming into force be included (as an estimate) in the report, in order to establish a link with the housing needs for FNs.

4) Targeted housing initiatives

Although Canada's Economic Action Plan has ended, it was still quite important to First Nations and their stakeholders. By the end of Year 2, approximately 90 per cent of the CEAP budget was spent, with 800 units having benefited from renovations.

A Tripartite Committee report on CEAP is being produced. It will be completed this summer and presented at the next regional meeting.

5) Funds allocation process

The document that explains the national and regional housing funds allocation process and criteria should be completed this fall.

The working committee has made it its objective to clarify the allocation process and to make it more transparent. However, the working committee makes no decisions on the allocations and only issues recommendations.

6) Delivery of the commitments set forth at the Socio-Economic Forum

Funds have already been allocated to develop innovative housing projects. The final report on Ricky Fontaine's project will be completed shortly. The results of this research will be difficult to implement at this time.

7) Capacity development

The RTCH is trying to launch a new project that will evaluate the feasibility of having a FNs technical resource group. This would involve mandating the Tribal Council (Bernard Duchaine) to carry out a feasibility study for the creation of a group that would provide support to FNs for housing matters. It is uncertain whether the Mamuitun TC can complete this project by September 2011. Follow-up is needed.

The committee members agreed to enter this project as new issue no. 8, "Housing research and development (R&D)" in the 2011/2012 action plan of the Regional Tripartite Committee on Housing (AFNQL-CMHC-INAC).

The First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec (FNHRDCQ) was mandated to develop a regional FNs housing management training strategy. This project is intended to develop the skills of employees who work in the housing sector. The committee members consider that the FNHRDCQ must consult

with certain stakeholders, such as tribal councils, who have already been involved in the training of FNs employees.

It's important to have a generic job description to develop a training plan for FNs representatives.

The maximum budget to carry out this project is \$60,000.

The committee members decided to:

- discuss and review the funding plan;
- consult with experts through focus groups; and
- hold consultations among the committee members to forward comments and recommendations to the FNHRDCQ.

**5. 2011/2012 RTCH action plan**

The 2011/2012 RTCH action plan was discussed and approved, taking into account the additions and comments made during this meeting.

**6. Next regional meeting on housing**

For the next regional AFNQL meeting, the committee plans to follow the same approach, namely, to hold a meeting with FNs elected officials and housing officers. It was suggested that the participants be surveyed on the need to hold a technical symposium, as well.

INAC will explore the possibility of inviting a representative from each tribal council and covering their travel costs for the regional AFNQL meeting.

**9. Next RTCH meeting**

*The next RTCH meeting will be organized by INAC and held on September 21, 2011 (Québec).*

*Costin L. Botez  
May 2, 2011*