

Presentation of Results: Aboriginal Housing Needs Assessment in Montreal



RECOMMENDATIONS by the working subcommittee on homelessness
of the Montreal Urban Aboriginal Community Strategy NETWORK

Based on the expressed desire of the research participants for more peer-support services, our committee recommends that:

- There be intentional training within the Indigenous community to support individuals in becoming positive mentors within the community through an empowerment approach
- Efforts be made to receive input from Indigenous community members who are in precarious situations, as they have the knowledge to contribute to identifying solutions, in the development of plans, programs, or services that concern them.

Based on the expressed desire for access to spiritual healing, our committee recommends that:

- That sensitization training on intergenerational trauma and its effects on the Indigenous population be accessible to program developers, funders, frontline workers and other service providers.
- That culturally appropriate therapeutic resources be funded, especially in the case of housing programs, to acknowledge that spiritual wellbeing plays an integral role in housing stability and overall wellness.

Based on the expressed need for affordable housing, our committee recommends that:

- There be receptivity to Indigenous-specific affordable housing projects and that funding criteria be flexible in taking into account the necessary culturally-specific supports and models for housing projects. In particular, to accommodate the diversity of preferences the respondents expressed, housing models ranging from rent-subsidized, independent apartments with appropriate supports, to congregate housing with onsite Indigenous-specific supports, should be explored.

Based on the lack of access to revenue and the language barriers faced especially by the Aboriginal population (especially Inuit), our committee recommends that:

- An integration strategy be developed for and by Indigenous people, in partnership with government, social service and community agencies to ease their transition into an urban setting, including access to revenue.
- That special attention be paid towards ensuring bilingual services, that service-providers are given awareness training on issues surrounding language barriers, and that service providers be made aware of and call upon interpreter services (Inuktitut) in instances where Inuit interact with the public system (i.e. justice, health, social services, etc.).