



314 Hudson Bay Street - P.O. Box 1869 Hope, BC - Phone: 604 869 0013 - Fax: 604 869 0053 - Email: housing@yalefirstnation.ca

BC First Nations Housing Mentorship Program - An Introduction

How our organization can assist Indigenous communities to plan and organize

The British Columbia First Nation Housing Mentorship Program is a true model of Innovation. It is the epitome of grassroots, developed by an individual with over 30 years' experience in First Nation Housing and management. The program was developed to address a very specific and significant need in Indigenous housing, access to resources, best practices and support from mentors. We require very little funding and few human resources, we have reached out to our diverse network and asked other housing professionals for a small commitment of time and the sharing of valuable resources to mentor other Indigenous communities who struggle with housing.

What services and support we can provide to Indigenous communities

We work with other First Nation communities across BC who struggle with internal capacity, we have worked for 4 years to harness the wisdom of those who have worked in First Nation government and housing and, through a mentoring website and a targeted communication and outreach strategy, provided a means for all BC First Nations to access that pool of knowledge to support their own housing programs. We provide information, resources and mentoring for all aspects of a band housing department starting with the most basic organizational processes, such as setting up filing systems, writing policies, creating plans and preparing funding applications extending to some of the more complicated processes related to housing program administration and issues related to land use, long-term planning and new construction. The most profound impact on First Nations housing programs has been the website-www.bcfnhousingmentorship.ca where we provide tools and templates including:

- Understanding and Accessing funding
- Data Management
- Evaluation
- Planning
- Policy Development
- Property Management
- Relationship building
- Construction project management
- Governance
- Public/Community Education.....and more

In 2019, we added an additional focus on Affordability, Energy Efficiency and Sustainability in terms of reducing debt and minimizing our carbon footprint.

This kind of comprehensive, hands on, ground up approach to supporting First Nation Housing programs has never been done before, but the results have been incredibly



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rewarding to see. The feedback from those who have benefitted from our seminars, presentations, phone support, one on one training and workshops has been overwhelmingly positive.

“I learned more about housing policy and community engagement in a two-hour workshop with the mentorship program than I learned in my entire 3 years as a Housing Manager” Campbell River workshop attendee

“The webinar presented by the 3 mentors was outstanding! I discovered there is a way to get Chief and Council behind housing, it’s all in how we communicate with each other and making sure they have the information that they need to move forward” “First Nation Housing 101” Webinar attendee