



INDIGENOUS HOUSING  
PARTNERSHIP 2024  
**ANNUAL IMPACT  
REPORT**

# INTRODUCTION

At Habitat for Humanity in Canada, we recognize the unique housing needs of Indigenous families and are deeply committed to the ongoing process of Reconciliation. Through our **Indigenous Housing Partnership**, local Habitat organizations work in collaboration with Indigenous families, communities and housing experts in urban, rural and northern communities.

This work is grounded in respect for Indigenous Peoples and guided by a *for-Indigenous, by-Indigenous* approach — ensuring that housing solutions are culturally appropriate, community-led, and responsive to local priorities.

Indigenous Peoples continue to face significant barriers to

accessing safe, adequate and affordable housing. These barriers include systemic discrimination, limited housing options, a lack of culturally relevant homes, and restricted access to pathways to homeownership.

According to Canada's 2021 census, individuals in First Nations communities are four times more likely to live in crowded housing and six times more likely to live in housing in need of major repairs than non-Indigenous people.

To close the housing gap on Indigenous-governed land alone, a 2021 report by the Assembly of First Nations states that First Nations communities need 55,320 new housing units and repairs to 80,650 existing units, at an

estimated cost of \$44 billion.

We are dedicated to co-creating homes that reflect Indigenous Peoples' unique traditions and housing needs and to increasing our understanding of the challenges Indigenous households face in accessing safe, adequate, and culturally appropriate housing. Although Indigenous Peoples represent 5% of Canada's population, 9% of families we partnered with in 2024 had at least one member who identified as Indigenous.

This important work is made possible through the generous support of partners, donors, and volunteers, and the meaningful collaboration of Indigenous communities.

## THE INDIGENOUS HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

In 2024, Habitat Canada's Indigenous Housing Partnership (IHP) disbursed \$1.2 million in funding to 10 local Habitat projects under four project streams: construction and rehabilitation, skills training, building staff knowledge and cultural competencies, and relationship building. Activities funded under IHP are guided by Indigenous leadership and shaped through meaningful consultations with local Indigenous communities to ensure inclusivity and cultural relevance. Habitat is also committed to supporting non-Indigenous individuals on their journey toward Reconciliation.



## **CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION**

In 2024, the Indigenous Housing Partnership supported the construction of 18 new homes and the rehabilitation of nine homes and provided 99 critical repairs to homes of Indigenous families. In addition, five Tiny Homes, serving as emergency shelters, were completed.



## **SKILLS BUILDING AND TRAINING**

In 2024, the Indigenous Housing Partnership supported nine Indigenous individuals with technical construction skills training and provided training for 134 Indigenous homeowners on essential home maintenance, building financial independence and promoting connected neighbourhoods.



## **HONOURING INDIGENOUS HISTORY AND CULTURE**

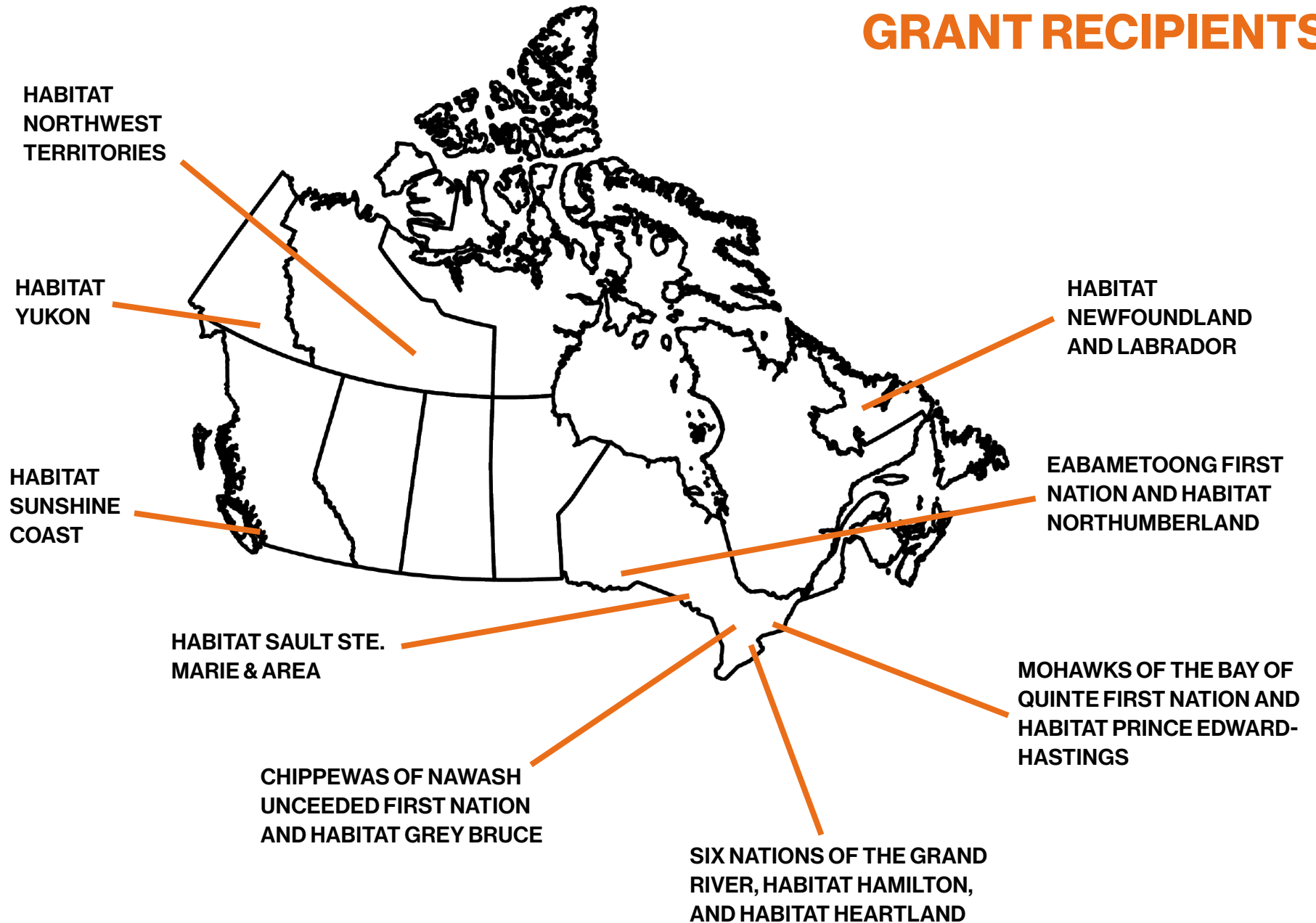
The IHP supported 56 individuals including staff, volunteers and partners in building their knowledge and understanding of Indigenous history, culture and Reconciliation to strengthen our partnerships and deliver on our commitment to Reconciliation.



## **RELATIONSHIP BUILDING WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES**

In 2024, Habitat staff and partners continued to develop meaningful, respectful, and reciprocal relationships with Indigenous Peoples and communities through participation in 15 Indigenous events and 21 discussions with Indigenous communities to better understand their specific housing needs. In addition, Habitat engaged in 118 advocacy actions — including meetings with Indigenous governments, signing onto letters of support, and raising awareness through storytelling and online engagement — in allyship with Indigenous communities to advance solutions for Indigenous housing needs.

# 2024 IHP GRANT RECIPIENTS





## GRANT RECIPIENT DETAILS:

### CHIPPEWAS OF NAWASH UNCEDDED FIRST NATION AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY GREY BRUCE

Through their partnership with Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, Habitat Grey Bruce completed Tiny Home emergency shelters (built through a program with Habitat for Humanity Halton-Dufferin-Mississauga) by laying foundations and installing septic systems. A second grant supported site preparation for two new homes on Neyaashiinigmiing Territory.

### SIX NATIONS OF THE GRAND RIVER AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HAMILTON

Two local Habitats (Hamilton and Heartland Ontario) partnered with Six Nations of the Grand River to build five rental units on reserve and complete critical repairs on rental housing stock.

### EABAMETOONG FIRST NATION AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NORTHUMBERLAND

Led by community members, Habitat volunteers provided 90 plumbing and electrical repairs over two visits to Eabametoong First Nation, a remote fly-in community in northwestern Ontario.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Ninety per cent of Habitat Northwest Territories' homeowners are Indigenous. Grant funds supported the continued employment of a family services manager who provides one-to-one support to Indigenous applicant families and homeowners, allowing families to feel supported and heard.

Habitat Northwest Territories also began construction of two duplexes for four Indigenous families in Yellowknife.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY YUKON

Habitat Yukon built two duplexes in Whitehorse with one unit designated for an Indigenous family.

### MOHAWKS OF THE BAY OF QUINTE FIRST NATION AND HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PRINCE EDWARD-HASTINGS

Habitat Prince Edward-Hastings partnered with Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte First Nation to provide critical repairs for seniors on Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SAULT STE. MARIE & AREA

Habitat Sault Ste. Marie & Area began construction on a five-plex where one unit is designated for an Indigenous family.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SUNSHINE COAST

Habitat Sunshine Coast is leading a housing initiative that brings together multiple First Nations, local governments, Indigenous and non-Indigenous businesses, and non-profit housing organizations on B.C.'s Sunshine Coast to develop sustainable and innovative workforce housing.

**“This (Habitat for Humanity Yukon’s affordable homeownership program) is an amazing program. It is giving opportunities to purchase a home for families that don’t have the ability to save a down payment due to rental cost and other life events. I’m so grateful and I can’t express how much this has meant to my family. Life has definitely changed for the better. I can now save for my daughter’s education. Before I was at the mercy of landlords and now there is less stress.”**

**New homeowner Koree-Lee and her daughter, members of Cowessess First Nation #73 Treaty 4**



**“Thanks so much for the funding for our new windows and doors. This winter we are much warmer and have less in fuel bills.... We have grandchildren that stay with us once in a while and ... our daughter noticed the difference in the temperature of the house as soon as she walked in...”**

**Darlene and Greg of Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte First Nation, and seniors living with an adult child on Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory**

# Empowerment and hope through housing

In 2024, Habitat for Humanity Hamilton and Heartland Ontario, in partnership with Six Nations of the Grand River, a community of six Haudenosaunee Nations on the banks of the Grand River, Ont., built a second phase of townhome rentals called Onondaga. Acting as contractors, Habitats Hamilton and Heartland Ontario were committed to working with Indigenous skilled labourers and partners. They sub-contracted out the roofing, siding, eavestroughs, driveway asphalt and installation of gas meters and hot water tanks to Six Nations-based companies. And, to accommodate larger and multigenerational families, finished basements were added, with built-in bedrooms and egress windows, and improved electrical and HVAC systems.

**Andrew Powless, Six Nations' housing supervisor, says that the collaboration with Habitat provides more than housing – it's a source of empowerment and hope for the community, and the families moving into the homes. He recalls a single mother who was struggling to provide housing for her family. After moving into an Onondaga townhouse, "she was just so excited that she was able to have a place of her own."**



Celebrating at the welcome ceremony for Onondaga 2, the second phase of five-unit townhomes to serve as Six Nations housing rentals

## Led by community members, Habitat provides critical repairs in Eabametoong First Nation

Elsie is an Elder of Eabametoong First Nation who used to have to sit by her window to do her beadwork, as this was the only light that was strong enough for her to see. The voltage in her home was so low that her lights barely shone.

The location of Elsie's remote fly-in community in northwestern Ontario makes repair supplies and expertise hard to come by. The nearest hardware store is a flight away and local tradespeople are scarce. Even replacing fire alarm batteries can be a luxury due to the cost.

In 2024, Habitat staff and volunteers made two trips to Eabametoong First Nation to work alongside community members to repair broken plumbing and faulty electrical issues that posed fire risks. After the lighting and electrical outlets were fixed in Elsie's house, she could complete her beadwork and safely move around.

"Our partnership is not only creating safer, healthier living conditions but is also honouring Indigenous self-determination and building lasting trust," says Cathy Borowec, CEO, Habitat for Humanity Northumberland and team lead.







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