



RECOGNITION AWARDS DINNER

TUESDAY 5:00 - 8:00 PM
SCANDIA ROOM - VALHALLA INN

The Housing Innovation Showcase is an opportunity to recognize innovations and achievements in housing initiatives at a community level. Listening to those recognized as part of this popular awards program is one of the most motivational and inspiring parts of the conference. This year we have one recipient: Naicatchewenin First Nation. CONGRATULATIONS!

NAICATCHEWENIN FIRST NATION 2015 INNOVATION HOUSING AWARD RECIPIENT

The Housing Innovation Showcase is an opportunity to recognize innovation and achievement in housing initiatives at the community level. Listening to the communities recognized as a part of this popular awards program is one of the most motivational and inspiring parts of the conference. This year's recipient is Naicatchewenin First Nation.

Naicatchewenin First Nation is a small and vibrant community located in Northwestern Ontario, 60 km northwest of Fort Frances near the Canada-US border. With close to 400 members, approximately 250 of whom live on reserve, the Naicatchewenin First Nation strives to foster, promote and protect the political, physical, mental, emotional, social, economic and spiritual well-being of current and future generations.

One way in which they are promoting the well-being of their community is by ensuring that its members all have access to safe and affordable homes. First established in 1992, the Naicatchewenin First Nation Housing Policy was developed for the betterment of their community. Their mission was, and remains to this day, to strive for and to promote adequate homes that are affordable and that exceed Ontario Building Codes for present and future Naicatchewenin First Nation Band Members.



The policy lays out everything from how to apply for housing to home damage protocol. The result, say community members, is accountability on the part of homeowners and tenants, transparency on the part of the committee, and a well-maintained community.

Along with the policy is the Housing Committee, a group of passionate and committed individuals who oversee the implementation of the Housing Policy. Housing Committee Members are people who regardless of their occupation or age are genuinely interested in the Housing needs of the community and are willing to work to see those needs are met.

The housing committee goes to great lengths to keep the community involved in the housing process, and actively invites applications from all community members when positions become available on the housing committee. Naicatchewenin First Nation takes great pride in providing affordable, well-maintained homes that are healthy and in good repair for all community members.



The Housing Policy is a living document and is under constant revision. The committee regularly reviews the policy and makes appropriate changes to deal with any new obstacles that they may have encountered in the previous year, and once a year, participates in a housing retreat to focus on improving the policy.

The Naicatchewenin First Nation Housing Committee works in partnerships with many different individuals and organizations to ensure they are following best practices, addressing the needs of their community members, meeting deadlines, and adhering to nationally mandated standards. A committee such as this one needs to work well together and in these partnerships in order to be successful, and The Naicatchewenin First Nation Housing Committee has already been recognized by the CMHC for their outstanding collaboration and team-work.



Newly developed this year is the upcoming voluntary Maintenance Program. Home owners can pay a monthly fee, which would keep the home eligible for Band managed repairs, such as roofs, doors, windows and health related issues. Some of the home owners are on limited incomes and this gives them an alternative which will help protect their assets.

It is obvious that the housing policy is working. As a result of their articulate Housing Policy and their commitment to providing affordable housing to all community members, Naicatchewenin First Nation provides an excellent example of how to effectively manage housing. Hundreds of community members in Naicatchewenin First Nation have felt the direct impact of this work.

THE NORTHERN HOUSING CONFERENCE WOULD LIKE TO HONOUR THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF NAICATCHEWENIN FIRST NATION, AND RECOGNIZE THEM WITH AN INNOVATION AWARD. CONGRATULATIONS!

