

About NAHA/ANHA

NAHA/ANHA emerged out of the National Aboriginal Housing Committee (NAHC) created June 13, 1993 in Ottawa. Known as the Le Breton Flats Protocol, representatives of nine housing providers met in a tent set up at Ottawa's Le Breton Flats to draw public attention to the Mulroney Government's decision to cancel the Urban Native Housing Program in 1993. NAHC's mission was the restoration and enhancement of the off-reserve housing programs.

Shortly after its formation, NAHA adopted a Code of Ethics.

The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) created in 1996 reported...

Still hurting from the 1993 cancellation of the housing program, urban Aboriginal housing providers were hit with another, perhaps more significant change in public policy with the Chretien Government's decision, announced in the February 1996 budget, to transfer responsibility for the existing off-reserve Aboriginal housing programs to provinces and territories. The Association responded with a campaign to Halt the Transfer! Aboriginal Control of Off-Reserve Housing but without revenue or champions within the federal government, it was unable to mount any effective pressure on the government. Its efforts did put into the public record the absolute refusal of the federal government to consult with Aboriginal people on fundamental changes in federal programs. This dismal record and betrayal is documented in NAHA/ANHA's brief to the Social Union Framework Agreement (SUFA) review: SUFA: Benefit or Betrayal.

The 2002 Annual General Meeting, held in Hull, Quebec resulted in the revitalization of the Association. Members elected a new slate of officers, approved the permanent move of the corporate offices to Ottawa, obtain the services of an Executive Director and develop a web page. Members also made development of a national Aboriginal housing strategy its highest priority.

NAHA/ANHA was encouraged by the Interim Report of the Prime Minister's Caucus Task Force on Urban Issues support of an urban Aboriginal housing initiative. The Association's response outlined its concerns about protecting the existing portfolio, which had been transferred to provinces and territories after 1996; and commit to an initial target of 20,000 new non-reserve housing units. Unfortunately, the Task Force's final report was less prescriptive and ignored specific support for non-reserve housing.

In April 2003, NAHA/ANHA, in partnership with the University of Toronto, sponsored the National Conference on Aboriginal Housing and Well-Being. The membership reiterated its priority to develop a national non-reserve housing strategy and Directors agreed to put every effort into securing funding to undertake the review of non-reserve housing conditions and develop guiding principles and program recommendations. The result, A New Beginning: The National Non-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Strategy was launched at the March 2004 A New Beginning national conference and annual general meeting held in Vancouver.