

Proponent Questions and CMHC Responses (Q&As)

RFx002627 – URN National Indigenous Housing Centre RFP

Date: January 31, 2024

Version 1

Q&A TABLE

No.	Proponent's Question	CMHC Response
1	<p>a) Will there be consideration for a nationally based consortium or joint venture partnership composed of Indigenous organizations?</p> <p>b) Will a new legal entity of those stakeholders be weighted the same as a singular organization.</p>	<p>a) Yes.</p> <p>However, as Part 1, Section 1.5.2 please keep in mind that the proponent “qualifies as an Indigenous business as defined under PSIB and that it will comply with all requirements of PSIB” and as per Appendix A Section 2 the “business will continue to meet the definition throughout the life of any resulting agreement awarded, of an Indigenous business as defined in PSPC’s Standard Acquisition Clauses and Conditions (SACC) Manual, Annex 9.4 Requirements for the Set-aside Program for Indigenous Business, which sets out the definitions of an "Indigenous business" and an "Indigenous person.”</p> <p>Notably, in order to be listed on the IBD, a business must be at least 51% owned and controlled by Indigenous peoples. and a joint venture consisting of two or more Indigenous businesses or an Indigenous business and a non-Indigenous business(es), can apply provided that the Indigenous business(es) has at least 51 percent ownership and control of the joint venture.</p> <p>(https://canadabuys.canada.ca/en/how-procurement-works/policies-and-guidelines/supply-manual/chapter-9-annexes#_9-4)</p> <p>b) Yes.</p> <p>However, as per sections 4.1 and 5.5 of Appendix C, the Centre is expected to provide for adequate</p>

		<p>representation and outline objectives for partnership and stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>This is reflected in the Rated evaluation criteria R2 - Organizational structure, governance, representation which seeks “Demonstrated representation within proposed governance structure” and R5 - Partnership and stakeholder engagement which seeks “Demonstrated existing or plan for establishment of a range of key relationships across sectors, regions, and identities.</p> <p>Demonstrated knowledge of housing programs and services at all levels of government to develop affordable housing for urban, rural and northern Indigenous Peoples.”</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Is it possible to know who has downloaded the RFP? In case there is interest in seeking out partners for a bid.</p>	<p>No, it is not possible to obtain this information.</p> <p>The Tender Notice on Canada Buys will only provide the number of downloads in English or French.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Can an organization bid on running the aspects of the centre and the distribution of U.R.N. funds for only one of the distinctions-based Indigenous groups? For example, can they bid on just the First Nations aspect, or do they have to bid on running the whole centre and dispersing funds to all Indigenous groups?</p>	<p>Because this RFP is for the development of an Indigenous Housing Centre it is expected that proponents would be able to support all Indigenous groups. There is nothing stopping a team of proponents to propose a distinctions-based approach, but the proposal would have to show evidence of what that partnership would look like and who the partners would be in order to meet the mandate of the Centre as per the Statement of Work Section 4.1.</p> <p>4.1 Development of organizational structure, governance, and mandate:</p> <p>The Centre is expected to develop and finalize an organizational structure and governance model that provides for adequate representation across:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All geographic regions of Canada 2. All Indigenous identities 3. Demographic populations – Indigenous Women, 2SLGBTQI+ people, unhoused/homeless, youth, students, elders, etc.

		<p>4. Urban, rural, remote, and northern population centres</p> <p>The Centre is expected to develop and share the organizational mandate, vision, and strategic activities that reflect the Strategic Framework.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Can CMHC speak to the procurement process and the strategy at large - i.e., how CMHC came to this decision and how Indigenous peoples informed this process?</p> <p>My broad concern is that this centre does not indicate 1) a distinctions-based approach, which the Federal government has committed to with respect to Indigenous rights, title and interests and how will Indigenous peoples be involved in the selection of the RFP procurement?</p>	<p>The federal government’s decision to implement an urban, rural, and northern Indigenous housing strategy was informed by key Indigenous reports and reports documenting the statements of Indigenous participants in committee hearings. Resulting summary documents on these reports can be found on the CMHC U.R.N. Indigenous Housing Strategy website under “Explore Fact Sheets and Theme Papers.” https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/professionals/project-funding-and-mortgage-financing/funding-programs/indigenous/urban-rural-northern-indigenous-housing-strategy</p> <p>In response to these calls to address the housing needs of Indigenous Peoples living in U.R.N. areas, the Government of Canada has mandated CMHC to create a National Indigenous Housing Centre and co-develop with Indigenous partners an U.R.N. Indigenous Housing Strategy. Budget 2023 proposed an additional \$4 billion over 7 years starting in 2024-25 for the implementation of the broader Strategy. The creation of a National Indigenous Housing Centre, through this RFP, is a key deliverable of this Strategy.</p> <p>The Government of Canada will also work with First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and Modern Treaty and Self-Governing Indigenous Governments, to provide funding to support their citizens, members and beneficiaries living in urban, rural and northern areas and discuss interim approaches for those who may not be ready.</p> <p>The urban, rural, and northern Indigenous housing strategy will complement the three existing distinctions-based housing strategies for First Nations, Inuit, and Metis.</p>

		<p>The Government of Canada, through CMHC, supported Indigenous-led engagements to gather input and ideas on the longer-term U.R.N. Indigenous Housing Strategy in Spring 2023 with Indigenous governments, organizations, housing and service providers on the Strategy. More than 6,000 individuals participated in 40 engagement sessions, as well as written submissions conducted by five partners. More than 960 surveys were also completed on the scope, vision, principles, priorities, and unique housing needs in U.R.N. The resulting What We Heard Report is expected to be released in early 2024.</p> <p>Based on this engagement and reflecting what we heard from participants who shared their vision for a U.R.N Strategy, CMHC has developed a Strategy Framework which outlines the key housing priorities, strategic objectives, and activities to achieve these outcomes in U.R.N. areas (included in the RFP).</p> <p>From a program funding perspective, the RFP process asks proponents to provide a funding allocation and methodology that reflects the elements of the strategy framework listed within – including considerations for regional, distinctions base, and demographic funding allocations.</p> <p>From an operational perspective, proponents are invited to provide their vision for the Centre – including structure, governance, and partnerships.</p> <p>We encourage any interested Indigenous business or organization to submit a proposal.</p>
5	Is this funding for homes on reserve?	<p>The U.R.N. strategy is intended to complement the existing distinctions-based housing strategies including the National First Nations housing strategy, Inuit Nunangat Housing Strategy, and the Canada-Metis Nation Housing sub-Accord.</p> <p>As stated within the RFP, funding provided to the National Indigenous Housing Centre is “intended to primarily support First Nations Peoples living off reserve; Inuit beneficiaries living outside of Inuit</p>

	<p>Nunangat; Métis citizens living in urban, rural, and northern areas; Modern Treaties or Self-Government Agreement holders for citizens living outside of their community; and, Métis, Inuit and Non-Status Indian who self-identify and are not covered by existing distinctions-based funding and Métis and Non-Status “Indians”/ First Nations organizations advocating for a direct role in delivering housing. For the north, flexibilities will be afforded to support activities in Inuit Nunangat that are not duplicative of the existing Inuit Housing Strategy. Eligible activities include those that narrow the core housing need gap between U.R.N. Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples as well as sustain housing outcomes achieved.”</p> <p>Funding for on-reserve housing would not be covered under this definition.</p>
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