

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN REPORT

2025-2026



Métis Nation
of Ontario 

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MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARY

Sharon Cadeau, Acting Chair of the PCMNO and Provincial Secretary
of Housing & Homelessness Métis Nation of Ontario

Dear Citizens, Partners, and Community Members,

It is my privilege to present the 2025/26 MNO Housing and Homelessness Action Plan Report on behalf of the Housing & Infrastructure Branch. This report highlights the accomplishments, challenges, and strategic direction of our branch as we work collectively to realize the vision of safe, affordable, and culturally relevant housing for Métis citizens across the province.

Over the past year—the second year of implementing the MNO 2024–2034 Housing and Homelessness Action Plan, our long-term roadmap to housing security for Métis citizens—we have made significant strides in advancing its goals. Guided by the principles of self-determination, reconciliation, and equity, this plan is grounded in the commitments made under the Housing Sub-Accord with Canada. It reflects our deep responsibility to serve our citizens.



Key Achievements in 2025-2026

This year, we made measurable strides toward our goals:

- **Preventing Homelessness:** Supported 466 households—exceeding our annual target—while growing the reach of our Housing Stabilization Program.
- **Affordable Housing:** Delivered 26 new rental units in Sault Ste. Marie and the GTA/ York Region through pilot projects, with all units fully occupied.
- **Home Repairs & Stability:** Assisted 86 households through emergency home repairs—71 through the Emergency Repair Program and 15 seniors through the Seniors Modification Accessibility Initiative.
- **Homeownership:** Approved 14 applicants for the Home Buyers Program and maintained a low mortgage default rate of 0%.
- **Partnerships:** Maintained collaborations with organizations like Know History, OAHS, and financial institutions, while amplifying awareness through conferences and various panels.

We also advanced our housing research, capital developments, and community engagement efforts—developing 5 new research products, including two peer-reviewed journal articles on Métis housing and health; completing Phase One of the KnowHistory Métis Historical Housing Study; presenting at the MNO Annual General Assembly and the MNC Housing Forum; providing 7,764 service interactions through the Thunder Bay Youth Outreach Team; furnishing 30 transitional housing units in preparation for the opening of Oskâyak Dibinawaang; and advancing 2 affordable housing developments in Midland and Kenora.

Together, these actions are creating pathways out of homelessness, increasing housing stability for those most at risk, and laying the groundwork for long-term, community-led housing solutions.

Looking Ahead: Strengthening our Impact

As housing costs continue to rise and the needs of Métis families evolve, we must further scale our efforts, close critical data gaps, and strengthen our organizational capacity to serve. We are committed to refining our programming, expanding affordable housing options, and ensuring every citizen has access to dignified shelter and services that reflect Métis values and realities.

Looking ahead, our strategic priorities include contributing to the Second Stage program opening at the Thunder Bay Indigenous Youth Transitional Home, Oskâyak Dibinawaang; completing construction in Midland and advancing the Kenora development; preparing for the 2027 MNO Housing Census; deepening partnerships with Indigenous and non-Indigenous governments and organizations; and advocating for policy reforms that support Indigenous-led housing initiatives. Our focus remains on listening to our citizens, responding to their needs, and advancing housing justice for all Métis people.

In Gratitude

To our citizens, partners, staff, and leadership, thank you. Your continued dedication, collaboration, and advocacy fuel the momentum behind our progress. Together, we are building stronger, more vibrant, and more inclusive Métis communities—rooted in culture, connection, and care.

Sincerely,

Sharon Cadeau

Provincial Secretary, Housing & Homelessness
Métis Nation of Ontario

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW

The 2025-2026 fiscal year marked the second year of implementation of the MNO's 2024-2034 Housing & Homelessness Action Plan. Guided by the vision that every Métis citizen has access to safe, affordable, and culturally appropriate housing, the Housing & Infrastructure Branch continued expanding programs across the housing continuum—from homelessness prevention and housing stabilization to affordable housing development and homeownership.

Throughout the year, the Branch exceeded several performance targets while advancing capital developments, strengthening research capacity, and deepening partnerships with Indigenous, provincial, federal, municipal, and community organizations. These achievements position the Branch to continue building sustainable housing solutions for Métis citizens across Ontario.

2025-2026 Priorities

- Expanding homelessness prevention and housing stabilization supports across all regions
- Delivering and fully occupying new affordable rental units in Sault Ste. Marie and the GTA/York Region
- Advancing capital projects in Midland & Kenora
- Strengthening Métis-specific housing research, data, and evidence-based policy
- Preparing for the 2027 MNO Housing Census
- Deepening partnerships that extend the reach and impact of MNO housing programs

Progress Against the 2024-2034 Action Plan

In its second full year of implementation, the Branch made progress under every strategic pillar of the Action Plan:

- Expanding Affordable Housing – 26 new rental units delivered and fully occupied
- Preventing Homelessness – 466 households providing support to more citizens than last year
- Supporting Homeownership – 14 home buyers approved with a 0% mortgage default rate
- Improving Existing Housing – 86 households assisted through emergency repairs and accessibility modifications
- Strengthening Research and Data – 5 research products developed and shared
- Building Partnerships – collaborations maintained and expanded with OAHS, Know History, CMHC, and others
- Advancing Capital Projects – 2 projects under development

HOUSING INITIATIVES

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

1. Housing & Homelessness Action Plan Engagement

- The Year One Progress Snapshot and Annual Report were released in Fall 2025
- Federal funders have received this report

2. Métis Housing Census

- Planning is underway for the 2027 MNO Housing Census to gather reliable, Métis specific housing data that informs evidence-based policy, program, and funding decisions
- The Start-Up and Governance phase has been finalized, establishing a strong foundation for the successful delivery of the Housing Census

Research & Policy

1. Housing & Health BMC Journal *Exploring the relationship between housing conditions and Métis Nation of Ontario citizen's health: a qualitative study*

2. Housing & Health BMJ Journal *'The Impact of Métis Nation of Ontario Citizens' Housing Satisfaction on Self-Reported Health: A population-based retrospective cross-sectional study*

3. KnowHistory Métis Historical Housing Study

- The first phase of the KnowHistory Métis Historical Housing Study is now complete
- Approximately 66 historical photos were collected
- Next step will be to integrate the results from the project into Housing presentations and future conferences



Credit: Donna Grenier

Photo of Louise Gendon and Alfred Gisdale



Credit: Donna Grenier

Photo of Josephine Grioux and William Gisdale at home in Victoria Harbour

Community Partnership Highlights

Partnerships remain central to how the Branch delivers results. In 2025-2026, the Branch worked alongside partners across every part of its mandate, including:

- Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) – funding through the Indigenous Supportive Housing Program (ISHP) and Mental Health and Addictions (MHA) streams supporting Thunder Bay Transitional Housing readiness
- Know History – Métis Historical Housing Study (Phase One complete)
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), Indigenous Services Canada, and Infrastructure Canada – federal funding and program partners
- Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre and the Ontario Native Women’s Association – community-based service partners
- Financial institutions supporting the Home Buyer’s Contribution Program
- Maintaining Housing & Homelessness Research and Data Accountability

I would like to extend our gratitude to you and your colleagues for your hard work and assistance with the Emergency Repair Program (ERP). We could not have completed repairs on our roof without your help. We are so grateful and blessed.



- Citizen, Region 5

Target/Metric	2025/26 Results	Status
Increase data sharing and decision-making	2 staff supporting data analytics (1 trained, 1 hired)	In Progress
Develop/share 5 research products yearly	5	Complete
Track partnership durations (min. 5 years)	2	Complete

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & IMPACT

AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

- Thunder Bay, Timmins, Fort Frances and Sault Ste Marie Community Centre renovations will continue.
- Sault Ste Marie (Patrick St) 20 new affordable housing units are now available and 20 Métis residents have already moved in.
- GTA/York: Affordable housing units are fully rented.
- Midland: A Home Builder has been awarded the contract for the construction of the 14 affordable rental units. Construction began in the Summer of 2025, with anticipated residency of Fall 2026.
- Kenora: Proposal for the development of an affordable rental housing project and potential commercial space was presented to PCMNO and approvals were given to engage the appropriate professionals to complete the site servicing study and develop a preliminary building design and site plan. Archaeological studies are ongoing to prepare for Geotechnical studies of the property.

Target/Metric	2025/26 Results	Status
1 pilot project per region	2 Regions completed, 2 underway	In progress
15-25 units annually	14 new affordable rental units (Midland) to be ready in Fall 2026.	In progress



“The need for affordable housing is immense across Métis communities in Ontario, so this new pilot housing project could not come at a better time. This initiative highlights how our government is creating lasting positive change for Métis families, children and elders and transforming our communities for the better.”

∞

- Roland Blanchette, MNO North Channel Métis Council President

HOUSING PROGRAMS & HOMEOWNER SUPPORTS

Home Buyers Contribution Program

The Métis Nation of Ontario Home Buyers Contribution (MNO-HBC) Program provides Métis Citizens with a 15% contribution of the homes purchase price towards a down payment of their first home. The HBC loan is structured as a shared equity mortgage registered on title and must be repaid at the time of sale or if the citizen no longer occupies the property.

Financial Literacy Program

The Financial Literacy Program was developed in 2022 and is available to all MNO Citizens with the goal of improving the overall financial literacy with budgeting and savings, retirement, home buying process and much more. The goal of the program is to empower citizens to make sound financial decisions and achieve a greater sense of security and success in their financial undertakings.

Emergency Repair Program

The Emergency Repair Program (ERP) launched in spring 2022 to provide eligible Métis citizens who own their home a one-time forgivable loan to complete emergency repairs that would compromise the homes integrity and/or improve accessibility for persons with disabilities up to maximum of \$15,000 with an additional \$5,000 available provided in the way of a grant for eligible citizens with a need for accessibility modification repairs.

Seniors Modification Accessibility Initiative

In partnership with MNO Healing & Wellness Branch, MNO supported Métis Seniors 55+ Aging at Home program with one-time grants of up to \$10,000 towards accessibility modifications. Seniors who own their home may apply for items which include ramps, wheel chair glide, grab bars, walk in showers.



“Thank you so much for this amazing opportunity, allowing our family to be safe, warm and dry. We are more energy efficient than ever and are so entirely grateful that we were able to participate in this program.”



- Citizen, Region 1

**Our exterior stairs look great, and more importantly they are so much safer than what we had before!
Thank you very much!**



- Citizen, Region 5

Helping Métis Households Stay in and Maintain Their Homes

Target/Metric	2025/26 Results	Status
80-100 dwellings repaired in year 1	71 approved ERP clients	In Progress
10 homeowners assisted in year 1	15 citizens for Senior Programs	Complete
2% annual reduction in homes needing repair	230 total applications (25/26) vs 210 total applications (24/25)	In Progress

Helping Métis Households Buy their Own Homes

Target/Metric	2025/26 Results	Status
30 buyers assisted in year 1	14 approved HBC clients	In Progress
Monitor default rate	0% (25/26) vs 1.13% (24/25)	Complete
2.5% annual increase in HBC requests	93 applications (25/26) vs 103 applications (24/25)	In Progress
Track annual HBC allocation	Funding is confirmed	Complete

“Thanks for all your assistance, we are so pleased with the new roof and beautiful windows which would not have been possible without the financial aid of you and MNO. You’ve made two old folks very happy.”

∞
– Citizen, Region 4

Thank you, Cynthia... for everything... you are amazing and I can’t thank you and the Housing Program team enough for the kindness and understanding in walking me through this process.

∞
– Citizen, Region 8

HOUSING STABILIZATION AND HOMELESSNESS SUPPORTS HOUSING INITIATIVES

The Métis Housing Stabilization Program – part of the Canada-Métis Nation Homelessness Sub- Accord – was initiated in 2020 and has assisted Métis households access housing or stabilize their current housing situation. The services provided include:

- Assistance with rental and utility arrears
- Tenant advocacy where MNO staff work as intermediaries to resolve landlord-tenant disputes
- Facilitating access to emergency shelters for those fleeing violence or those experiencing homelessness
- Assistance with basic needs provisions such as food/hygiene items
- Education and support around tenant rights and responsibilities; Referral to legal supports as required
- Support with housing searches, application processes and priority requests for affordable housing
- Assistance and support for those exiting homelessness including the first and/or last months’ rent, utility and tenant insurance deposits, household set up, transportation assistance for essential appointments, assistance for obtaining personal identification.

Preventing Homelessness and Providing Pathways to Stability

Target/Metric	2025/26 Results	Status
Track year-over-year funding secured	Funding is secured for this fiscal year	In Progress
2.5% annual increase in new clients	196 (25/26) vs 72 new clients (24/25)	Complete
Support 150 households annually	466 households supported	Complete
5% annual reduction in reactivated files	12 reactivated files (25/26) vs 19 reactivated files (24/25)	Complete

Thunder Bay Youth Outreach Team & Transitional Housing Program

Thunder Bay Youth Outreach

In February of 2022, the Housing Stabilization Program expanded services through additional funding to include a Youth Outreach Team in the Thunder Bay district. This program aims to support youth 18-29 years of age who are experiencing homelessness. The Thunder Bay Transitional Housing program had 7764 service interactions in 25/26 through the newly formed Thunder Bay Youth Outreach Team.



Transitional Housing Program

The Thunder Bay Indigenous Youth Transitional Home, Oskâyak Dibinawaang, is currently under development and scheduled to open in Fall 2026, providing culturally grounded transitional housing and supports for Indigenous youth.

- OAHS funding through the Indigenous Supportive Housing Program (ISHP) and Mental Health and Addictions (MHA) streams is supporting program readiness, including furnishing 30 residential units, staffing key program positions, and delivering rental support and life-skills programming prior to opening.
- The Youth Services Outreach Program continues to support vulnerable youth through community outreach, system navigation, and cultural connections.

“ I enjoyed the ice survival training. It had a lot of useful information, especially for me as my usual line of work involves being near waters. I hope that there is more relevant and useful info and similar sessions that deal with life skills and emergency situations. It was a lot of fun as well.”

∞

- John K

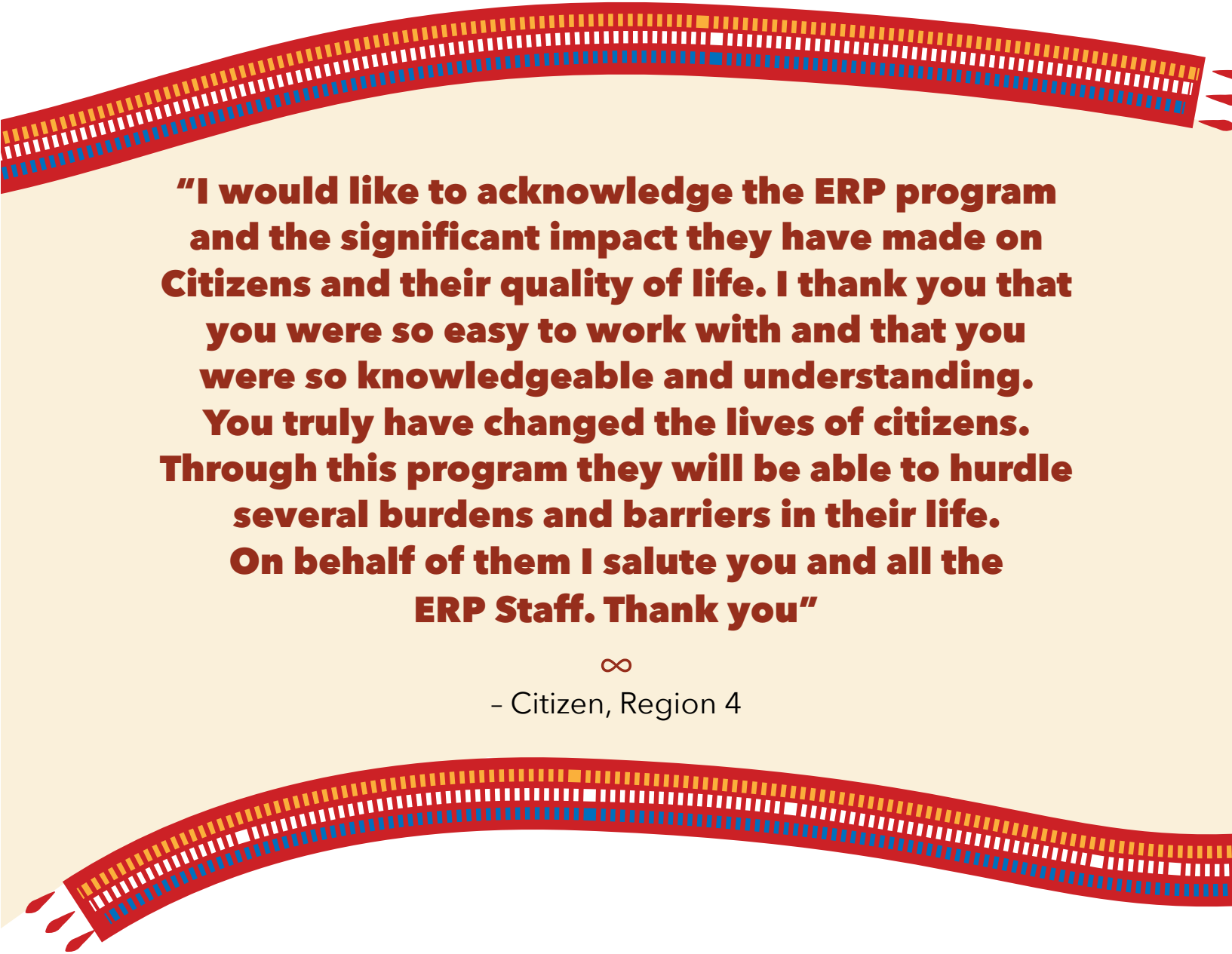
Community Partnerships: Driving Collective Impact

The Branch’s partnerships multiply the impact of every program dollar. From OAHS funding that is preparing Oskâyak Dibinawaang for opening, to research collaborations with Know History and academic partners, to the community organizations that connect Métis citizens to supports, these relationships are how the Branch turns strategy into results on the ground.

Internal Partnership Highlight: Cross-Branch Collaboration within MNO

Housing outcomes are strengthened by collaboration across the MNO. In 2025-2026, the Branch worked with:

- **Healing & Wellness** – delivery of the Seniors Modification Accessibility Initiative and supports for the Aging at Home program
- **Registry** – planning for the 2027 MNO Housing Census
- **Communications** – citizen engagement, program promotion, and release of the Year One Progress Snapshot
- **Finance** – program funding administration and reporting
- **Intergovernmental Relations** – federal and provincial funding relationships, including the Canada-Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord
- **Lands, Resources & Consultations** – archaeology and site studies supporting the Kenora capital project



BUILD SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS & WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

Target/Metric	2025/26 Results	Status
Document new partnerships formed	Expanded OAHS partnership through the ISHP and MHA funding streams (Thunder Bay Transitional Housing); new research collaborations supporting 2 peer-reviewed journal publications	Complete
Track presentations conducted	Gathering of the Wise Ones MNO AGA August 2025 MNC Housing Forum March 24-25, 2026 Canadian Housing Renewal Association (CHRA) Conference April 2025	Complete
Track partnership durations (min. 5 years)	Existing partnerships	Complete

Looking Ahead: 2026-2027 Priorities

- Begin operations of the second stage of the Thunder Bay Indigenous Youth Transitional Home, Oskâyak Dibinawaang (Fall 2026)
- Completing construction in Midland and welcoming residents to 14 new affordable rental units
- Advancing the Kenora development through site servicing, design, and geotechnical studies
- Preparing and launching data collection planning for the 2027 MNO Housing Census
- Renewing and expanding Housing Stabilization funding
- Increasing the affordable housing inventory across regions
- Expanding research partnerships and knowledge sharing
- Continuing implementation of the 2024-2034 Housing & Homelessness Action Plan

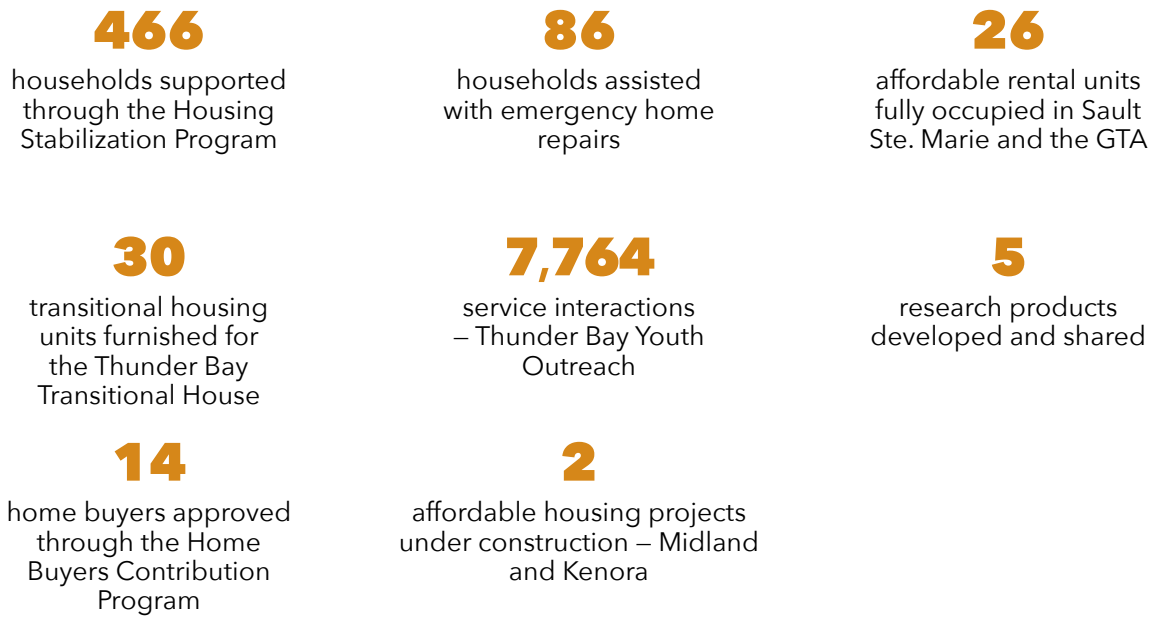


2025/26 Program Performance Summary

Presentations

- Gathering of the Wise Ones
- Canadian Housing Renewal Association (CHRA) Conference – April 2025
- MNO Annual General Assembly – August 2025
- MNC Housing Forum – March 24-25, 2026

Key Statistics at a Glance





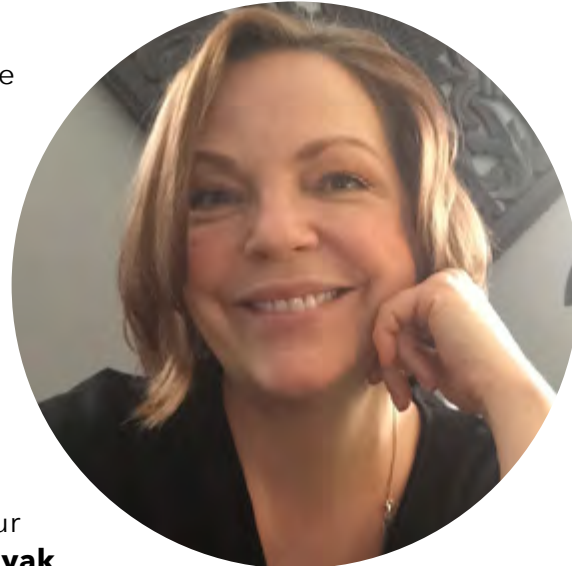
DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE: FUTURE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Strategic Priorities for 2026-2027

As we enter the third year of implementing the 2024-2034 Housing & Homelessness Action Plan, we remain focused on advancing sustainable, culturally grounded housing solutions that reflect the priorities and evolving needs of Métis citizens across Ontario. Building on the momentum of our first year, we will continue to strengthen the housing continuum through strategic investments, innovative partnerships, and evidence-based planning.

The coming year will mark several important milestones, including the beginning of our programming for the second stage of **Oskâyak Dîbinawaang**, the Thunder Bay Indigenous Youth Transitional Home, continued construction of the Midland affordable housing development, and further advancement of the Kenora affordable housing development. We will also continue preparations for the 2027 MNO Housing Census, ensuring we have reliable, Métis-specific data to guide future policy, program development, and advocacy.

Looking ahead, our priorities include expanding affordable housing opportunities, preventing and reducing homelessness, supporting homeownership, preserving existing housing through repair and accessibility programs, and strengthening partnerships



across governments and community organizations. Together, these initiatives represent long-term investments in the health, wellbeing, and housing security of Métis citizens and communities.

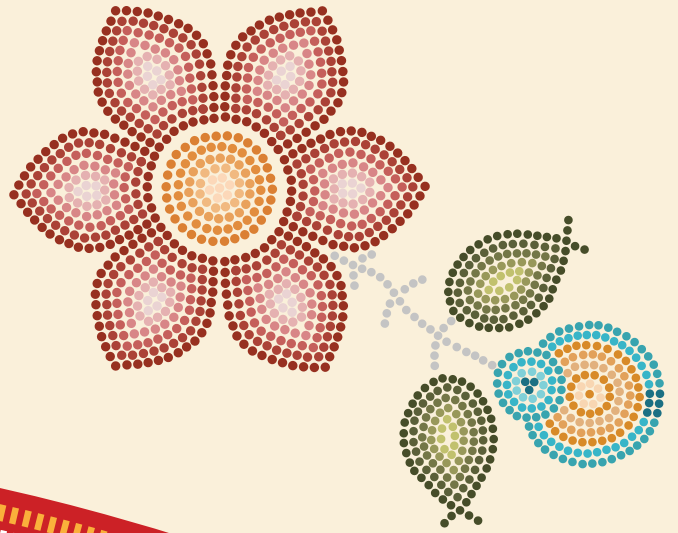
The progress achieved throughout 2025-2026 reflects the dedication of our staff, the strength of our partnerships, and the resilience of the citizens we serve. While significant work remains, the first year of implementing the Housing & Homelessness Action Plan has demonstrated what can be accomplished through collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to improving housing outcomes for Métis citizens.

On behalf of the Housing & Infrastructure Branch, I extend my sincere gratitude to our employees, leadership, partners, and citizens for their continued support and collaboration. Together, we are building a stronger foundation for future generations by ensuring that Métis citizens have access to safe, affordable, culturally appropriate, and sustainable housing.

The stories shared by citizens throughout this report are a powerful reminder of why this work matters. Their experiences demonstrate the meaningful impact that stable housing can have on health, well-being, and opportunity, and they continue to inspire our commitment to delivering programs and services that make a lasting difference.

Sincerely,

Cindi Rye
Director, Housing & Infrastructure Branch
Métis Nation of Ontario



Métis Nation
of Ontario 