



JUN 25-29 2018
SIOUX LOOKOUT, ON

Northern Housing Summit 2018

Get ready to join the conversation between Non-Profits, Government Agencies, First Nations, and Private Sector Organizations to discuss housing needs and economic development in Northwestern Ontario. A shortage of housing in the region is hampering economic development and growth.

The Vision

The Northern Housing Summit will look for solutions to housing needs in Northwestern Ontario. The Summit will bring together stakeholders and interest groups from a variety of sectors. Groups are being invited to attend, sponsor, present, and participate. The Summit will be hosted in Sioux Lookout in June 2018.

Over several decades and for many reasons Sioux Lookout has grown as a hub for a northern region encompassing approximately 30 First Nations. People have migrated from the north to Sioux Lookout for services such as health care, education, training, social services, recreation, commerce, housing, and more. People have also migrated to Sioux Lookout from both the north and the south for jobs related to providing those services. Yet in Sioux Lookout, like much of Northwestern Ontario, available housing has not grown along with population growth. The central location of Sioux Lookout in Northwestern Ontario and its' hub role for 30 First Nation communities, presents a unique opportunity to examine housing options which could be adapted throughout the region.

The concept for the Northern Housing Summit was hatched at the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Chiefs Emergency Meeting on Education held on July 5th-6th, 2017.



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The meeting was held in Thunder Bay to address concerns related to the safety and well-being of students attending school away from their home communities. Sioux Lookout is home to two high schools and annually hosts approximately 400 students from NAN communities. Sioux Lookout has become a preferred destination for northern families with students leaving home for education. The demand for student spaces and accommodation continues to grow in Sioux Lookout. In 2018, the new \$30 million state-of-the-art Sioux North High School will open, to replace Queen Elizabeth District High School.

Activity is surging in other sectors as well and is pushing the demand for housing. In response to recent developments with Wataynikaneyap Power, the Ring of Fire, and all-weather access roads, training for workers in those sectors is required. Training agencies such as the Sioux Lookout Area Aboriginal Management Board and the Lac Seul Training Centre will respond with programs. The constraining factor will be available housing for trainees.

Investments and advocacy by NAN and other First Nation agencies are being made to improve health and health care delivery to Ontario's far northern region. A significant part of that health care delivery to the far north is channeled through Sioux Lookout and similar communities. As employment in the health sector increases so too does the demand for housing.

The planned outcome of the Northern Housing Summit is that through the identification of sector housing needs and locations that partnerships and strategies can be developed to meet the regional need for housing. The challenge is significant and growing. Through linkages and collaborations forged at the Summit, solutions will be created and realized.

Attend the Northern Housing Summit, become a partner or help link partners together, and be part of the solution of the growing housing challenge across Northwestern Ontario.