



Indigenous-led Supportive Housing

AMO Knowledge Exchange 2024

Building Homes, Empowering Communities



All About Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS)



- OAHS is the largest provincial Indigenous non-profit housing provider in Ontario
- Our mandate is to provide safe and affordable housing to First Nation, Inuit, and Métis people living in urban and rural communities across the province.
- Our vision is to lead the design, development, and delivery of a sustainable and culturally appropriate continuum of housing that supports urban Indigenous community wellbeing.

Supportive Housing: What's Needed First



- Awareness of Indigenous housing need
- Commitment to Reconciliation:
 - Articles 21 & 23 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*
 - The Recommendations of the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
 - Honouring the Spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
- Building strong relationships
- Securing serviced land

How OAHS Develops Supportive Housing



- Community need drives supportive housing
- We work with community partners on:
 - Opportunities for land
 - Committed long-term Indigenous operators
 - Long-term operational funding commitments
- Community engagement
- Apply for multiple sources of funding: capital and operating
- Design process with Indigenous community
- Construction
- Operations for the next seven generations

Supportive Housing in Sioux Lookout



- Renovation into transitional housing
- 20 studio units with kitchenettes
- (mix of men and women's units)
- Supportive housing for people who are experiencing homelessness
- Onsite program room, dining, and common space with commercial kitchen



Partners: **Municipality of Sioux Lookout, Kenora District Services Board, Nishnawbe Gamik Friendship Centre, and others**

Supportive Housing: Urban Indigenous Homeward Bound in Dryden

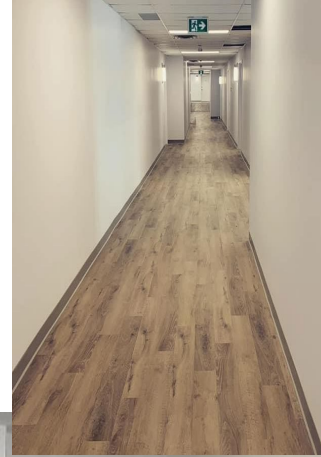


- Friendship Centre Program
- Renovated vacant school, 10 Units:
 - (5) three bedroom units,
 - (5) four bedroom units and
 - On-site daycare and programs room
- All units are rented inclusive of utilities at affordable rates

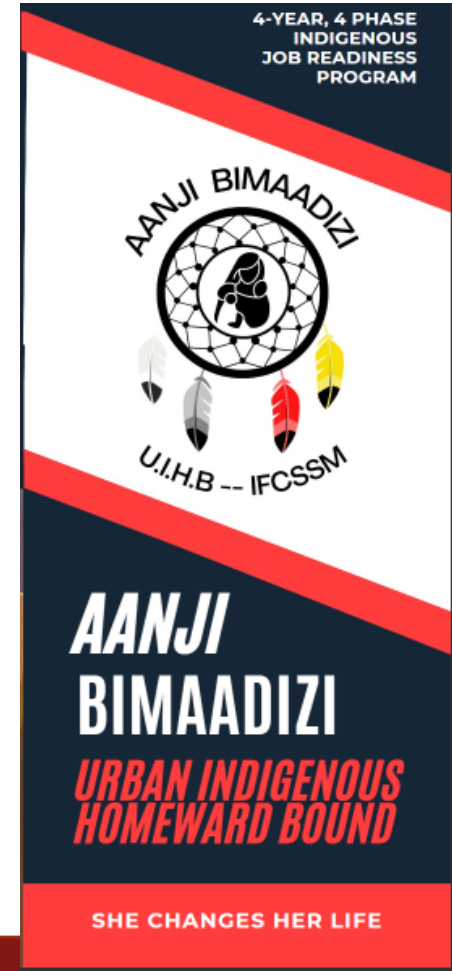


Partners: **Dryden Native Friendship Centre,**
Kenora District Services Board

Supportive Housing: Urban Indigenous Homeward Bound in Sault Ste. Marie



- Friendship Centre Program
- 11 units on-site:
 - (4) two-bedroom units,
 - (6) three-bedroom units,
 - (1) four-bedroom units and
 - On-site daycare and programs room
 - All units are rented inclusive of utilities at affordable rates.

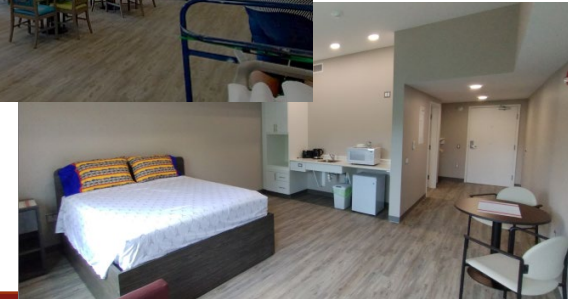


Partners:

Indigenous Friendship Centre Sault Ste. Marie, Sault College, District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administration Board, Algoma University, Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig, Waabinong Headstart

Supportive Housing: Kenora

- 30 studio units (mix of men and women's units)
- Supportive housing for people who are experiencing homelessness
- 24/7 supportive services from Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe'iyewigamig (WNHAC)
- Has a commercial kitchen which provides meals for the tenants and teaching kitchen
- Large program room; offices; staff room
- Received occupancy permit in July 2024



Partners:

Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe'iyewigamig Health Access Centre, Kenora District Service Board, Canadian Mental Health Association – Kenora, Kenora Association for Community Living, and others

Supportive Housing: Thunder Bay Youth Transitional Housing

- Construction started in November 2023
- 58 units:
 - 28 pod-style
 - 30 one-bedroom
- Cultural activities and teachings
- Completely furnished
- Communal teaching kitchen
- 24/7 on-site supportive programs and Case Managers for residents
- Completion Date: December 2025



Partners: **Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre, Ontario
Native Women's Association, and Métis Nation of Ontario**

Additional Supportive Housing Developments:

- **Cochrane:**
 - 10 units
 - Operated by Inninew Friendship Centre
- **Sturgeon Falls:**
 - 6 units
 - Operated by Mkaana-wii-giwe'aad program
- **Sioux Lookout:**
 - Pre- and post-natal supportive housing
 - Operated by First Step Women's Shelter
- **London:**
 - Urban Indigenous Homeward Bound with daycare
 - Operated by N'Amerind Friendship Centre
- **Sault Ste. Marie:**
 - 30 Studio Apartments
 - Operated by SSM Indigenous Friendship Centre



Supportive Housing: Lessons Learned



- Supportive housing will look different in every part of the province
- Transfer of knowledge is essential during the development process
- Indigenous-led supportive housing is owned and operated by the Indigenous community
 - Indigenous supportive housing must reflect the people the housing serves



**Miigwetch Nya:weh Marsee
Qujannamiik Merci Thank you**