

**Housing Design/Education Committee Learning Partnership for Mino Bimaadizwin**

**Meeting Date:**

Sept 22, 2017

**Meeting Day:**

Friday

**Meeting Location:**

NRI Seminar Room (Room 320)

**Attendees:** Eric Bjornson (co-chair), Ethem Tar, Elsie Monias, Barney Mason (co-chair), Curtis Monias, Lancelot Coar, Shauna Mallory-Hill, Clarence Harper, Laurel Gardiner, Miroslava Kavic, Rezwanel Hoque, Erfan Hajibandeh, Shirley Thompson

**Regrets:** Dennis Ballard, Lawrence Wood.

**Meeting Purpose:** Housing committee to develop a housing design, education program and research with Garden Hill and Wasagamack First Nations.

Topic	Discussion points
Introductions by group and to issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shirley Thompson welcomed all members of the Committee. Each member shared his/her name and interest in housing issues.</li><li>• A video of housing crisis in Wasagamack emphasized community capacity building to deal with the current housing crisis. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgySkmyho1U">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgySkmyho1U</a> During the last nine years, no house has been built in the Garden Hill First Nation (GHFN) and Wasagamack First Nation (WFN) due to being third party managed. Island Lake needs another 500 new house to deal with the housing crisis.</li><li>• Twenty to thirty years ago, there was a community college in Garden Hill that was a partnership with RRC. That is when all the Red Seals got their schooling and in fact most people with jobs today in trades but these people are now retiring and there is a desperate need for capacity building (as well as housing).</li></ul>
Design for curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eric Bjornson talked about the 'Carpentry program of AAC in Dauphin that is 90% experiential. The program is 10 months long and has taught the teens some of the basics of woodworking, including safety, planning and how to properly use both hand and power tools. A number of people enrolled in this course for the year and two remain but because of the delay from the 2 week fire evacuation and difficulty in getting established in the program one person with a great background was not accepted as he arrived too late (after the safety training) and two other youth experienced the culture clash, were overwhelmed and dropped out in their first week. Also young students (18 to 25) really seemed to need their family support to keep on track. The difficulties of people relocating to Dauphin with 0% vacancy and no residences and with different systems (e.g., students lacked bank accounts but had northern pre-paid visas which don't work with university systems) amplified the need for community education.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Carpentry Camp’ at ACC provides a youth program to get their first introduction and hands on skills.</li> <li>• As a design is needed for the curriculum a modifiable, open-source one will be available for mid/end of November, which the design competition process will help with.</li> </ul>
<p>Standing Tree to Standing House Curriculum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laurel Gardiner mentioned she had a ten month curriculum which has five modules and was originally developed with RRC studying the approach of Frontier Foundation, which built houses in many Indigenous communities. She provided the floor plan of a single story residence, which can be developed into a two storied residence. She noted that the curriculum needs updating but may be applicable to the needs of the communities and this project. The curriculum uses the book ‘An Ultimate Guide for House Framing’, which is accessible to English as a Second Language students and provides illustrations.</li> <li>• Laurel Gardiner mentioned that graded lumber was needed for the roof and the wall to maintain the ‘National Building Code’. The whole lumber grading is for big companies. Besides, lumber license cost \$3000 to renew every year, which is costly. Also, the grader must grade a large amount of lumber to retain current certification and this is not possible locally.</li> <li>• Log cabins – either a D log or square log or timber frame may allow local material without requiring grading.</li> <li>• CMHC or INAC will not provide any financial assistance if the houses do not follow the building code. We need to look at this issue.</li> </ul>
<p>Developing a housing curriculum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It may require a year or more to develop housing curriculum unless we could adopt the curriculum from ACC, which does have a 9 month residential housing course (as well as a 5 month applied carpentry course) already or the Standing Tree/Standing House curriculum. RRC has a 5 month introduction to trades and a 5 month introduction to carpentry course – but they are not focused on residential or hands-on or apprenticeship. For RRC to develop a housing course in community they have stated that they require a: 1) housing design; 2) plan of action; 3) curriculum development. If they are not interested - other colleges may be interested in delivering this course.</li> <li>• A meeting by the education committee will include some of the housing people and most colleges in early October to develop a plan to move forward.</li> </ul>
<p>Design Findings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy efficiency, low maintenance cost, sustainability, retrofitting, expandable/extensions and local materials were considered important design characteristics.</li> <li>• The design should allow the house to expand as the family grows.</li> <li>• Wall between kitchen and living room should be removable (and not load-bearing) to provide enough space for funeral wakes at the home, which do occur and require large rooms.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lancelot Coar mentioned his housing design work with Lac Brochet and Tadoule Lake community members to design with local values, environment and needs. Lots of good material from that is referenced in a book he, Linda Larcombe and others produced, which he will share the reference with the committee. Lancelot mentioned that he would be doing a build design workshop in Island Lake in the future (towards the end of the project? – possibly 2021).</li> <li>• Shauna Mallory-Hill talked about using universal design to ensure all people, including people with disabilities, had access throughout their lifetimes.</li> </ul>
Modeling and Monitoring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Engineering master student, Erfan, with Miroslava will provide monitoring and modeling of different options for materials – including local popular wood insulation- considering wood chips as insulation and logs.</li> </ul>
International Design competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The team is planning to apply for International Design Competition of Housing, which will assist to provide designs for the curriculum</li> <li>• The process to design will require that a housing workshop be conducted in late October or in early November.</li> </ul>
Next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A housing design workshop will be arranged in mid or late October or early November with communities. A meeting will occur on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 to 3:00 to plan the trip to Island lake.</li> </ul>