

Housing Design/Education Committee Learning Partnership for
Mino Bimaadizwin

Meeting Date:
October 13, 2017

Meeting Day:
Friday

Meeting Location:
NRI Seminar Room (Room 320)

Attendees: Eric Bjornson (co-chair), Barney Mason (co-chair), Dr. Linda Lancome, Dr. Lancelot Coar, Laurel Gardiner, Dr. Shirley Thompson, Mark Hoddenbagh, Ethem Tar, Rezwanel Hoque, Erfan Hajibandeh, Jason Surkan.

Regrets: Elsie Monias, Brian Saulnier.

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"> Eric Bjornson, Barney Mason and Shirley Thompson welcomed all members of the Committee. Each member shared his/her name and interest in housing issues.
Housing design consideration, research process and finding in Taudole Lake and Brochet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linda Lancome and Lancelot Coar worked together on a project named Dene First Nation's perspective on healthy homes in Northlands Denesuline First Nation and Sayisi Dene First Nation. They presented their findings together. Linda focused on health issue and Lancelet's emphasis was to design. Linda talked about how the research engaged community people in many activities (workshop, video documentation, capacity building, develop a book) to bring the community knowledge and the university knowledge together. Students were dedicated to this research for two years. <p>They worked with the community and asked them to think of a house that shows Dene style and pride! How is it built? What shape is it? What colour is it? What rooms are important? How big is it? Who lives in it? What makes it a Dene house?</p>

They gave instructions to: Draw, colour, design or write about your ideas for a Dene house for a prize for who shows Dene pride and style.
Their research Immersed with in the culture of the community.

Their book was distributed by Lancelot Coar that shows Ideas of housing — thinking about the problems that are really facing them.

- be realistic about problems
- Co-imagine what a healthy house can be.
- Icons to understand and always recycled materials, harvested materials, purchased materials.
- Issues regarding sourcing the material
- Lots of abandoned houses – deconstruct and they gain skills.
- Double stud house but no vapour barrier – like having a giant quilted blanket on.
- Rammed earth construction appropriate in many of these first nations. local sapling trees. - appropriate for shading
- Sandbag construction — multigenerational housing.
- elders’ cabin

- Lancelot talked about the design and the material used to build houses in the research. He and his students were engaged to develop designs for sustainable housing in northern communities. He said his focus was not just solving present problem but to look at beyond the problem on housing design. There is no silver bullet for the housing problem and every community’s cultural situation is different. Engaging with community while developing designs is a good way to provide the community better accommodation. Later he showed some housing design and construction techniques developed by him and his students to the committee.
- Regarding reliability and applicability of the housing designs; Lancelot said- most of the techniques and design still have to be proven.
- Can we end the housing crisis in the northern communities? Each northern community in Island Lake needs 300 houses now to deal with their bad housing conditions, so we also need to look at how we can make more houses along with the design issue, Ethem added. He also said if we can only make 15-20 houses a

	<p>year it will take another 20 years to solve present housing crisis.</p>
<p>Standing Tree to Standing House</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laurel Gardiner talked about a film/documentary about a carpenter who learnt carpentry from his father and did not have any license. Laurel said the idea to train youth to make them sustainable workforce is important for Island Lake and it is also realistic. Carpentry requires skills but they can be easily taught without a lot of formal education. Youth can learn basics of carpentry easily. A copy of the video was given to Shirley to put on Youtube. • Laurel emphasized capacity building and use of local materials in building houses. The main focus of the standing tree to standing house is to provide healthy, well-constructed, well maintained and energy efficient house to every northern family. • There is always a tension between Band Council and the dweller when it comes the issue of maintenance. Basic housing maintenance knowledge among the resident of houses reduce the maintenance cost for the band council. It is mandatory for the resident of a reserve in Alberta to have a mandatory basic housing maintenance course prior to possess a house, She also talked about the Ermineskin Cree Nation of Alberta, where the Band Council takes rent from its members who are employed. Usually, the Band Council uses the money to fix/renovate houses. • It is always cost effective to renovate houses than building new houses. Laurel shared an experience of her, where the instructor and trainee got the money to build 3 new houses but ended up renovating 24 houses. • Library/publication/YouTube video on housing maintenance was also discussed.
<p>Planning trip to Wasagamack and Garden Hill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barney suggested traveling between 24 and 25 October as the water will freeze by that time which will make it hard to move from one community to another. • The committee will visit Island Lake on October 24 and October 25. The committee will travel to the community by catching 7.30 a.m.'s flight on 24th. The committee will travel to Wasagamack in the morning, meet the Band Council and let community leaders and members know about the project's objectives and purposes. Then the committee will visit the local school and talked to grade

	<p>11 and 12 to have them understand what is going to take place. The group will also provide a presentation in local ---- station on from where the money comes from and how it is related to community wellbeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone who wants to return back on the same day can return back by catching the last flight at 7.00 p.m. • It is better to stay two days but it depends on committee members' schedule, Barney suggested. If it possible for the committee members to stay both days; 24th will be spent in Wasagamack and 25th will be in Garden Hill. Accommodation can be arranged. • The main focus of the trip is to know each other and to build relationships.
<p>Other issue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rezwanul presented the analysis of Garden Hill First Nation's housing and employment data. Total 275 households were surveyed by Garden Hill employment authority and Elsie Monias, director of employment and training. 407 youth (18-30 years old) in these 275 households 67 or 16% youth were employed and 374 or 84% youth were not employed. The average number of people per bedrooms in the community (n=275) were 2.7 +/- 6. 27% of those surveyed had no water service, using pails, and 29% had no toilets, using pails. 44% rated their houses as "bad", 39% "average" and only 4 % rated them "excellent" and 13% as "good". Only 32% of houses in the community have been renovated. • There will be a meeting with Apprenticeship Manitoba on November 03. • Garden Hill and Wasagamack received 'Trudeau Homes' this year. • Ken Klassen will be invited to a future workshop regarding an illustrated Indigenous Building Code (IBC) that is being developed by Aki Energy with support from the Indigenous Innovation Demonstration Fund. The IBC will go beyond the minimum requirements of the National Building Code of Canada and the other National Construction Codes in several key areas to better reflect the needs of First Nations (e.g., culturally-specific design; enhanced energy efficiency to reduce the burden of high energy bills; better ventilations

	<p>and moisture control to reduce mould problems and increase building durability; etc.). Aki is partnering with the Cross Lake Band of Indians to pilot the development and implementation of the IBC. The intent is that IBC developed for Cross Lake could then be used as a model code for other First Nations across Canada to adopt and modify to suit their local or regional circumstances. The IBC for Cross Lake is still under development. The energy, environmental and healthy housing elements of the IBC will be the first to be developed. Subject to funding from INAC and Manitoba Hydro, these elements will be used for the design and construction of a group of 11 new houses planned for Cross Lake.</p>
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