



Aboriginal Housing Forum
Thunder Bay Urban Aboriginal Strategy
Housing Action Circle
May 4, 2011
Prince Arthur Hotel

Report Respectfully Submitted By:

Kari Chiappetta

Main Facilitator

Aboriginal Housing Forum

Summary Report

Facilitator: Kari Chiappetta

Participants: Respected Elder, community members, community partners, government representatives;

Listed in no particular order:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. James Aggamaway | 2. Tyler Boily | 3. Lorna Akervall |
| 4. Linda Bruins | 5. Iain Angus | 6. Maria Burla |
| 7. Robin Armstrong | 8. Alaine Auger | 9. Alice Bellavance |
| 10. Kerry Conlan | 11. Rikka Berkan | 12. Lana Corkum |
| 13. Casey Boban | 14. Genevieve Desmoulin | 15. Carla Duncan |
| 16. Peter Boban | 17. Marilyn Dyer | 18. Jennifer Derosier |
| 19. George Edwards | 20. Josh Fidler | 21. Heather Gillies |
| 22. Audrey Gilbeau | 23. Cathy Gordon | 24. Dana Gray |
| 25. Tara Gusola | 26. Robin Haliuk | 27. Barb Hay |
| 28. Rebecca Johnson | 29. Marnie Kayhko | 30. Adrian Karasiewicz |
| 31. Sophia Klewgyt | 32. Vanessa Knight-Ezzard | 33. Diane Lampi |
| 34. Jenny Leadbeater | 35. Reena Legarde | 36. Melanie MacKenzie |
| 37. Moffat Makuto | 38. Robynn Malug | 39. Nicole McKay |
| 40. Meaghan McKillop | 41. Tobey Meyer | 42. Emma Neshinapaise |
| 43. Chrystal Norland | 44. Lena Onabigon | 45. Hui Pan |
| 46. Lester Pascal | 47. Colleen Peters | 48. Lisa Pucci |
| 49. Cal Rankin | 50. Paul Reid | 51. Robert Robson |
| 52. Leafy Shaw | 53. Fred Sky | 54. Sasha Sky |
| 55. Shannon Slipperjack | 56. Michele Solomon | 57. Melanie Tibishkogijig |
| 58. Sean Treseirra | 59. Lisa Wabange | 60. Sue Watson |
| 61. Frances Wesley | | |

“Community coming together in the spirit of trust and respect to improve conditions by sharing knowledge and influencing change in self, community and policy”

Wednesday May 4, 2011

Registration and Networking

Participants were welcomed with coffee, muffins and were given the opportunity to socialize and share greetings with fellow community members/ partners.

Welcome and Opening Prayer:

Genevieve Desmoulin, Chair of the Urban Aboriginal Advisory Committee welcomed all to the forum and thanked them for their input.

Elder Gerry Martin welcomed everyone and opened the forum with a prayer.

Facilitator, Kari Chiappetta provided a brief overview of day's activities, including: purpose of meeting and review of agenda.

Purpose:

To discuss the current housing issues facing Aboriginal people in Thunder Bay and what we can do to address them.

The first part of the day consisted of information sharing on the following:

- Urban Aboriginal Strategy: Collaborative Approach Model
- Review of various local housing reports including:
 - Drug Strategy: Housing Pillar
 - Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board Housing Study
 - Children's Aid Society Report

The remainder of the day consisted of group work and sharing to discuss:

- The challenges facing Aboriginals in finding, maintaining and keeping homes
 - The gaps in services
 - Narrowing the recommendations to help create a focus for the Housing Circle
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Thunder Bay Urban Aboriginal Strategy: A Collaborative Approach Model

Thunder Bay Urban Aboriginal Strategy Planner, Frances Wesley gave an overview of the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS), specifically, the collaborative approach model used within the Thunder Bay UAS.

Key points from her presentation included:

- The collaborative approach model is about sharing our strengths, expertise and knowledge by creating a forum for partners at all levels to work collectively to address the priority needs of the urban Aboriginal Community
 - The community decides the priority areas for the Urban Aboriginal Strategy through information gathered from regular forums
 - Target goals include
 - Promote and improve relationships
 - Build Aboriginal community capacity
 - Establish and maintain dialogue
 - Address gaps / barriers in service
 - To support funding partnerships
 - Currently there are 4 Action Circles including:
 - Employment and Training
 - Access to Social Services
 - Housing
 - Justice
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A First Hand Look

Housing Circle member Lisa Wabange shared her personal story of her past struggles with poverty and homelessness. The sharing of her story helped put a face to the issue of poverty and homelessness.

Summary of Housing Study Recommendations

Drug Strategy: Housing Pillar

Housing Pillar Chair Cal Rankin presented the key recommendations related to housing from the Drug Strategy. These included:

Result: All people in Thunder Bay have access to safe, appropriate and affordable Housing

- Advocate for the development of a Federal Housing Strategy that includes funding for social housing.
- Increase basic housing stock through innovation, including the possibility of retrofitting unused buildings.
- Establish a working group to access funding for social housing from the Homelessness Partnership Strategy

- Request the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Board perform an audit to distinguish the services and housing options required for men, women and youth and develop an action plan to improve the entire housing continuum from shelter to independent living, based on community needs.
- Increase the availability of housing projects to support people with mental health and addiction problems.
- Improve the range of housing options available for women and youth, including safe and sufficient emergency shelter, case management services and transitional housing services.
- Allocate sustainable operational funding to local emergency shelters based on adherence to shelter standards that promote acceptance and inclusion of persons who use substances.
- Invest in community revitalization models that incorporate a mixed-housing approach.
- Streamline the social housing application.
- Implement a shelter that accepts intoxicated clients.
- Support the development of a Managed Alcohol Program residence
- Implement a storage facility program to safeguard personal property for people entering institutional systems or who are otherwise unhoused.
- Create a personal identification (ID) storage program for vulnerable populations.
- Create housing options that follow the Housing First philosophy.

District Social Services Administration Board Study Recommendations

Dianne Lampi presented the key findings from the DSSAB Report. These included:

Goal: To advance the housing agenda- Improving the quality of life for Aboriginal People

Recommendations:

1. Encourage the development of a master contact list of Aboriginal organizations serving Aboriginal people living off-reserve in the District.
2. Establish a greater presence in the community by making effective use of technology such as e-mail and electronic newsletters to consult with Aboriginal service organizations and receive input on a regular basis
3. Actively encourage Aboriginal people to apply for positions within DSSAB by notifying known Aboriginal organizations of employment opportunities as they arise.
4. The DSSAB create a community development officer position to interface between the DSSAB and specific groups in the District such as the Aboriginal community.

5. The DSSAB consider establishing an Aboriginal Liaison Committee with representations from the Aboriginal community, MMAH, NWLHIN and MCSS
6. Request the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) to broaden the Special Priority Policy to include Aboriginal families who are fleeing violence from on-reserve extended families.
7. The DSSAB review the urgent status category for housing and amend it to include Aboriginal families who are fleeing from violence from on-reserve extended families.
8. Request the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to amend the Social Housing Reform Act (SHRA) to eliminate the minimum occupancy standard to minimize the disadvantage to large households.
9. In the absence of a legislative solution and with due regard to health and safety, consider developing a policy to enable local flexibility to accommodate large Aboriginal families seeking subsidized housing. One approach may be to designate guest suites in select buildings
10. Advocate for flexible new capital programs and operating funding that will provide greater choices for meeting the housing and support service needs of Aboriginal residents
11. Support the development of permanent, emergency and transitional housing with and without supports for Aboriginal people that is culturally appropriate and under Aboriginal control to accommodate large Aboriginal families seeking subsidized housing.
12. Establish programs and policies to address discrimination. Elements of the program could include:
 - Partnering with the City of Thunder Bay and the Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation to promote human rights in housing targeted to both the community at large and specifically to landlords and tenants
 - Working with the Human Rights Commission to promote their policy on Housing and Human Rights
 - Working with Aboriginal organizations to showcase successes achieved in housing

Children's Aid Society

Street Involved Youth Needs and Service Analysis

Tobey Meyer, one of the key researchers on the study presented the key findings from the report. These included:

1. A Youth Specific Housing Strategy to include:

- A youth specific emergency shelter
- Long term transitional housing
- Subsidized youth housing in Thunder Bay Housing's housing registry
- Third party trusteeships
- A landlord liaison
- Incorporating outreach to agency services
- Intensive life skills programming
- Collaborative lobbying efforts for modifications to components of Ontario Works policies and programs

2. That all agencies working with street- involved youth should aim to include the following components in their programming:

- The expansion of drop in programming
- The provisions of a transportation service
- Life skills programming
- Eligibility

3. The meaningful Inclusion of Youth

- The re-examination of service promotion and messaging
- Consider how street-involved youth acquire information
- Messaging that a life of destitution is not normal

4. Filling the Gaps in Thunder Bay's mental health and addictions service continuum

- Establishment of mental health practice guidelines for children involved in child welfare services
- Community based mental health and substance use services for street involved youth
- Increased capacity within withdrawal services

5. Increased research and evaluation of street youth's needs and programming

- The development and strengthening of relationships with the academic and research communities
- A point in time count of the number of street involved youth living in Thunder Bay
- Further exploration into the needs of First Nation youth migrating to Thunder Bay

Group Work

Participants were asked to divide into groups according to the colour code that was on their name badge. In these groups they discussed and recorded answers to two questions.

- *Question 1: What are the top challenges that Aboriginal people face in finding, maintaining and keeping housing in Thunder Bay?*
- *Question 2: Are there gaps in the reports' recommendations? If so, what are they?*

After small group discussions, all groups joined together in plenary. Each group gave an individual presentation on the results of their discussions on those two questions. The cumulative results are listed below.

Question 1: What are the top challenges that Aboriginal people face in finding, maintaining and keeping housing in Thunder Bay?

- Lack of affordable, appropriate and safe housing
- Racism
- Poverty (lack of housing for Aboriginals)
- Education on life skills (i.e. budgeting, bills)
- Discrimination
- Ageism (i.e. students are more likely to get rejected for renting because lack of income)
- Gender (i.e. Adult males with a mental illness have a longer waiting period for low income housing)
- Lack of housing for a single mother with more than one child
- Hard for Aboriginals having extended family staying in their home (lack of communication with not knowing their rights of renting)
- Lack of employment (not being able to pay bills on time)
- There is no funding for sending Aboriginals from different reserves home when coming into town for appointments, resulting in them having nowhere to stay
- social issues for new people coming into the community – social integration
- not enough transitional supports
 - assisting with finding accommodations
 - help with where to access things
 - how to enroll kids in school
 - where to get affordable food options
 - how to be neighborly
 - road rules and pedestrian guidelines
 - personal property and safety
 - respect of others personal property
- lack of understanding about Aboriginal people and the definition of family
- language barriers
- lack of funding for social, emergency, transitional and supportive housing

- awareness of the landlord tenant act or tenants rights and responsibilities explained clearly taking into account language barriers and comprehension
- advocacy support – Aboriginal specific
- literacy issues
- reverse discrimination within the system
- where to look, where to start
- not knowing about Thunder Bay (geographic area)
- transportation-lack of
- financial cost to have access to rental home listings ie: Home Sweet Home
- no known address ie: living at a shelter
- lack of computer skills and/or knowledge
- lack of internet access
- no references ie: new to city
- lack of self-confidence
- unsure or unaware of how to present themselves
- lack of communication skills ie: language barrier
- lack of support services to help find housing
- unsure of housing type options
- needing to prove themselves
- income
- disability either mental or physical
- children
- addiction
- relatives that come to live with you, could mean loss of home
- not a society that accepts caring for relatives (family dynamics)
- not enough money to maintain homes
- utilities go up, income received is capped
- not understanding the services available to them ie: language barrier
- Not one Aboriginal sits on TBBSSAB
- Lack of housing models that will accommodate the disabled and individual needs
- Culturally safe housing
- Crisis housing for spouses and children
- Men's abuse shelters that accommodate children
- If somebody is homeless and searching for a place, resources are needed like a computer, telephone or a way to get around to go and look at places
- Lack of support documentation such as ID
- Automatic exclusion clauses: Ministry wants to make it more stringent but many involved in the work say it needs to go the other way
- Many landlords not trained on how to be landlords; need to be better educated and supervised about how to work with tenants and how to keep their buildings safe and up to standards and to meet health inspections.

Question 2: Are there gaps in the reports' recommendations? If so, what are they?

- Jurisdiction issues (federal, provincial, municipal); “pass the buck” (Have to understand and deal with jurisdictional issues in the urban environment which are different from reserve communities – band, federal)
- Lack of follow up on reports / focus groups (When reports are done or when people take part in focus groups, where is the follow-up and how do you find those reports?)
- Fighting red tape (Can be stressful)
- Policies too restricted (When applying for something, too many questions, rules and restrictions can be overwhelming)
- Long waiting times and processing times for housing applications (Hard to find out status of application and where you are on the list)
- No preparation programs in place for landlords and tenants (There should be preparation / training / education for landlords before they rent out. Also guidelines and education for tenants needed)
- Not enough support for people following incarceration (To help find housing, to recoup possessions, to store their possessions, to track personal papers)
- Database for homeless people would be helpful for emergencies and family contact
- Addictions: Leads to people spending all their money so not able to pay rent
- Catch 22 situation: Need a home to get income and need income to get a home
- Causes of homelessness, underlying reasons that leads to it
- Halfway house / drop in centre for youth which includes residency option could be set up (Similar to a halfway house in Guelph that started in a church basement: provides meals; gets donations of blankets from hotels; teaches life skills (residents are responsible for upkeep and maintenance, etc); they have access to clothing / goods through donation centres; youth have freedom to leave; has maximum capacity; if suspected of using drugs, sent to detox; alarm at door – to go in or out – police come automatically; learn responsibility and how to become independent.)
- Aboriginal people were not contacted to represent themselves in regards to the consultation process
- Recommendations were not in sync with the CAS report indicating the need for Aboriginal needs to be identified
- Consulting the population that we are attempting to serve
- Needs are identified but we need to listen and start implementing solutions and actions (ask about lived experiences)
- collaborate with NAN Grand and Deputy chiefs to set up subsidized housing off

the reserve

- city and 1st Nations should collaborate
- break down barriers between Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments
- eliminate jurisdictions
- case management from start to finish
- hiring more Aboriginals to help Aboriginals that are new to the city
- learning from someone who has been through it
- a system navigator that comes from a 1st nations community
- needing to stay longer term in Thunder Bay due to medical reasons and not wanting to, but unable to access care in home community
- youth specific study for aboriginal youth that looks at culturally supportive services for youth
- systems navigator or support person to help families

Narrowing the Recommendations to Help Create a Focus for the UAS Housing Circle

Participants were asked to divide up again into their previous groups. They were to decide on 4 priority recommendations from a list of 30 recommendations taken from the three reports presented earlier. The recommendations from all the groups were combined and a consensus reached on the overall 4 priority recommendations.

Below is a list of the top recommendations that came out of each group discussion.

Group 1:

Top 5 priorities

- 1- A youth specific housing strategy
- 2- Advocate for the development of a federal housing strategy that includes funding for social housing
- 3- Support the development of a managed alcohol program residence
- 4- Support the development of permanent, emergency and transitional housing with and without supports for aboriginal people that is culturally appropriate and under aboriginal control to accommodate large aboriginal families seeking subsidized housing
- 5- Increase basic housing stock through innovation, including the possibility of retrofitting unused buildings

Discussion and narrowing the priorities

- *“Support the development of a managed alcohol program residence”* Individuals in this group felt this wasn’t top priority at this time. They felt that having an

emergency shelter for youth is a major concern because youth are forgotten about. There is nothing for youth to do in this town or go. This leaves children with limited resources to access.

- *“Advocate for the development of a federal housing strategy that includes funding for social housing”*- individuals were saying have a community partnership to receive funding
- *“Increase basic housing stock through innovation, including the possibility of retrofitting unused buildings”*- individuals felt this was a huge issue that needs to be met, because there are so many unused buildings in Thunder Bay that can be used for housing
- *“Support the development of permanent, emergency and transitional housing with and without supports for Aboriginal people that is culturally appropriate and under Aboriginal control to accommodate large Aboriginal families seeking subsidized housing”*- individuals felt that there should be a place where Aboriginals can go to get back to basic life skills before intergrading into society and subsidized housing or housing in general.

Group 2:

Top Priorities

1. Access to information, where to go and who can take me there, a handbook that is aboriginal specific to include translations and both aboriginal and mainstream agencies and support services.
2. Support worker for aboriginal people seeking and maintaining housing and supports
3. Supportive (#11 DSSAB) range of housing options
4. Elimination of cross cultural discrimination funding issues

Discussion and narrowing the priorities

The discussion continued at our table surrounding the amount people receive on social assistance and the cost of living. It was discussed that the current amount allocated continues to create barriers for people to lead healthy productive lives. It was expressed that simply finding accommodations in this city is extremely difficult with only approximately \$500.00 to supply a person with food and shelter. All of the table shared their experiences accessing Ontario works or similar programs and found them to be an awful and humiliating experience.

Group 3

Top Priorities

1. Support the development of a Managed Alcohol Program residence
2. Advocate for flexible new capital programs and operating funding that will provide greater choices for meeting the housing and support service needs of Aboriginal residents

3. Establish programs and policies to address discrimination
4. Request the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Board to perform an audit to distinguish the service and housing options required for men, women and youth to develop an action plan to improve the entire housing continuum from shelter to independent living based on community needs

Discussion and Narrowing the Priorities

Support the development of a Managed Alcohol Program residence

- Will happen with encouragement
- Already available housing for 15 people in Thunder Bay
- Everything has already passed for the “Wet House” for homeless with alcohol addiction
- Resources to maintain (end up in jail or hospital)
- \$1 million a year in police resources
- A 2 year pilot project
- Individual opportunity for safe housing
- Controlled substance to receive medical care and/or treatment

Advocate for flexible new capital programs and operating funding that will provide greater choices for meeting the housing and support service needs of Aboriginal residents

- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal funding in relation of housing is an unknown clause
- Cannot have stacked funds
- This exists federally, provincially and municipally
- Viable project
- The project goes nowhere because we are on limited resources and a lot of people do not realize this

Establish programs and policies to address discrimination. Elements of the program could include:

- Partnering with the City of Thunder Bay and the Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation to promote human rights in housing targeted to both the community at large and specifically to landlords and tenants.
- Working with the Human Rights Commission to promote their policy on Housing and Human Rights.
- Working with the Aboriginal organizations to showcase successes achieved in

Request the District of Thunder Bay Social Services Board to perform an audit to distinguish the service and housing options required for men, women and youth to develop an action plan to improve the entire housing continuum from shelter to independent living based on community needs

- Housing first mantra
- Youth specific emergencies have been done in the past but statistics low for usage
- Getting people permanent housing

Group 4

Top Priorities

1. Thunder bay Aboriginal housing strategy (controlled by Aboriginals for Aboriginals)
2. Increase basic housing stock
3. Lack of housing for people with addictions and mental health issues

Discussion and Narrowing the Priorities

Many people thought increasing basic housing stock was a huge issue because there are many buildings in the city that are not being used.

Some ways to increase basic housing stock are:

- Force municipal government to give up the empty buildings
- Relocate senior buildings for singles

A way of helping people with addictions and mental health issues on how to live on a daily basis is having a support worker at all times; figuring out a strategy for ministry of health program for these individuals.

Daily living rehabilitation – educating them on living skills

Group 5

Top Priorities

1. A Youth Specific Housing Strategy
2. Advocate for the development of a Federal Housing Strategy that includes funding for social housing
3. Establish programs and policies to address discrimination
4. Support the development of a Managed Alcohol Program residence
5. That all agencies working with street- involved youth should aim to include the following components in their programming:
 - The expansion of drop in programming
 - The provisions of a transportation service
 - Life skills programming
 - Eligibility

Discussion and Narrowing the Priorities

Advocate for the development of a Federal Housing Strategy that includes funding for social housing

- it can be added to
- it's Aboriginal and youth specific
- jurisdictions must work in collaboration with Fed/Prov/Mun gov't
- streamline housing applications

- not 1 specific place to access the Aboriginal handbook
- Cultural awareness-which they can refer to

Actively encourage Aboriginal people to apply for positions within DSSAB by notifying known Aboriginal organizations of employment opportunities as they arise

- fall on their shoulders

Establish programs and policies to address discrimination

- adding cultural and Aboriginal resources
(chosen for recommendation, after vote)

Support the development of permanent, emergency and transitional housing with and without supports for Aboriginal people that is culturally appropriate and under Aboriginal control to accommodate large Aboriginal families seeking subsidized housing

- developing more housing in #11, how tangible is it
- more freedom because it is a general statement to add to it
- encompasses males and females fleeing from domestic violence
- sad stories and victims, does something bad have to happen before they can have access to services

(Chosen for recommendation, after vote)

Support the development of a Managed Alcohol Program residence

- changing people's opinions

That all agencies working with street- involved youth should aim to include the following components in their programming:

- The expansion of drop in programming
- The provisions of a transportation service
- Life skills programming
- Eligibility

- should include specific areas
- being pro-active

A Youth Specific Housing Strategy

- youth not having a voice
- start with the high Aboriginal youth population then, model it to the adult population
- is broader and can be modelled to a larger population
- model with baby steps
- youth need something to belong to

(Chosen for recommendation, after vote)

The Final Outcome

Once all of the groups presented their top four recommendations, they were asked to individually check off their top recommendation from the ones that were noted most often after the group work. From there, 3 top recommendations became clear. They were:

1. Increase Basic Housing stock through innovation, including the possibility of retrofitting unused buildings
2. A Youth Specific Housing Strategy
3. Access to Information i.e. Aboriginal Handbook "*Where to go and who can take me there*"

Once the recommendations were narrowed to the top 3, participants were split into 3 groups and had the opportunity to propose solutions to meeting the recommendations. This was done in a "world cafe" format.

Participants were reminded to keep in mind that the goal at the end of the day was to assist the Housing Circle with setting their priorities for the coming year.

Below is a summary of the recommendations and proposed solutions to meeting the recommendations.

Recommendation #1

Increase Basic Housing stock through innovation, including the possibility of retrofitting unused buildings

- Good for local economy
- Using private sector buildings
- Vacant schools can be used
- Offer to private sectors/ incentives
- Residential rehabilitation programs for support- i.e. cleaning, visits, assistance for individuals
- Relocate senior buildings for singles
- Force municipal government to give the empty building/schools up
- Outline positives of people from off the reserves – what aboriginals are doing for themselves and trying to do
- Provincial territorial organizations should get involved i.e. treaty 3- Robinson superior and treaty 9- NAN
- Retrofitting: promote volunteering, to help build and fix old buildings
- Seek funding to develop plan- construction etc
- Municipal Aboriginal action circle work together

- Increase partnership with first nation, municipality and businesses
 - Aboriginal action circle needs to develop a plan for community multiple housing needs
 - Promote successes in community in regards to housing
 - Develop an aboriginal housing need plan before asking for property
 - Fast track permits for people who want to start a group home, transition house etc
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Recommendation #2

A Youth Specific Housing Strategy

- Research and create a half-way house or group home to include an advocacy worker, as well as, a life skill programs
 - Developing and aboriginal specific housing plan to target the youth
 - Developing aboriginal peer mentor group for those making the transition into urban life
 - Accessing funding from Fed/Prov/Mun areas of government
 - Consulting with aboriginal youth, focus groups
 - Working directly with organizations on the issues
 - Real life success stories need to be shared
 - Information needs to get out the youth
 - Policies regarding youth in the 16-18yr old gap need to be addressed, the needs must be more age specific
 - Developing a trustee position (paid) responsible for the allocation of monies and the monitoring of a group of youths
 - Integrating someone into the school system
 - 2 yr housing plan for youths 16-18, having bed units with services in the building i.e.: referral for employment and job training, as well as, life skill training
 - Developing more evening programs or
 - Tap into existing youth programs which are often underfunded that needs to be adequately funded
 - A list for youth to access about what services are available to them
 - Strength based employment training for youth
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Recommendation # 3

Access to Information i.e. Aboriginal Handbook “Where to go and who can take me there”

- Agencies contribute to printing costs (collaborations)
- Use Aboriginal “welcome wagon”
- Use university handbook as a template (match with Aboriginal specific hard times)
- Expand on 211 Aboriginal specific services
- Online database
- Need for national that assists persons - follows them, matches for transitions in the system, updated constantly
- Welcome Package - handbook: what does parking signs mean?, how do you recycle?, how to use transit?.
- Use social media in general i.e. facebook page “Thunder Bay Smoke Signal”, vacancy for housing, current events etc.
- All agencies aware of handbook
- Design a map which includes services
- Collaboration with Lakehead Social Planning Council
- Hand book to include information on:
 - Food banks
 - Clothing
 - Food security (RFDA)
- Aboriginal organizations should be more visible in phonebook
- Who is responsible to give updates
- Handbook translated to Aboriginal languages
- More access to registered translators

Next Steps, Wrap-up and Closing:

Facilitator quickly reviewed and summarized day’s input and confirmation of direction received; informed participants that a report would be completed and distributed in the near future.

Elder, Gerry Martin closed meeting with a prayer.