



Identifying the Integrated Harm Reduction Housing and Care Needs of Urban Indigenous Older Adults

Study Co-Leads: Lara Nixon, Rita Henderson, Katelyn Lucas

Background:

Indigenous older adult populations in Canada (First Nation, Metis, and Inuit) are growing at considerably faster rates than those of non-Indigenous seniors, and are increasingly leaving rural and reserve communities for larger population centers.

Indigenous older adults are often severely over-represented in homeless populations, and often live under circumstances distinct from non-Indigenous Canadians:

- they frequently provide care to children and grandchildren, and experience systemic discrimination in the form of shelter and housing rules prohibiting these family members from residing with them.
- they may experience racial discrimination by landlords and neighbors, a lack of affordable housing due to federal-provincial government jurisdiction gaps, and difficulties navigating housing and care resources.

Despite these realities, there is very little study of how multiple forms of oppression shape the health and housing experiences of Indigenous seniors with co-occurring mental and physical health challenges (including substance use and addiction), poverty, and homelessness.

Aim:

In partnership with the Aboriginal Standing Committee on Housing and Homelessness (ASCHH), and local stakeholders:

- Identify local gaps in housing and primary care for Indigenous (First Nation, Metis, and Inuit) older adults with experiences of homelessness and challenges related to substance use in Calgary, Alberta.
- Identify the needs and preferences of these older adults as they relate to low-barrier housing, harm reduction supports, and culturally relevant programming.

Harm Reduction Housing for Older People Experiencing Homelessness (HR HOPEH)



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Project Plan:



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