

# ASSEMBLY OF TREATY CHIEFS

OFF RESERVE HOUSING

PHASE ONE



# Terms of Reference

- “**WHEREAS** the Opasikonewiw Housing Authority agreed to administer the Self Help Program for 2007 – 2008 on an pilot basis until such time that the pilot project has been developed and aligned with Assembly of Treaty Chiefs at which point the AoTC will determine equitable determination of province wide services to Off Reserve Members of our Nations commencing April 1, 2008-09.
- **WHEREAS** OHA shall consult with the Three Treaty Areas in to develop a working group to develop quality service delivery for Off Reserve Self Help Housing, and
- The Treaty Chiefs of Alberta recognize that First Nations living off the reserve need assistance to purchase houses and renovate existing ones; and
- **WHEREAS** the Assembly of Chiefs of Alberta are in support of Off-Reserve Self Help Housing, with the understanding that First Nations Housing Authorities in Alberta can have a regional body to develop collective agreements, and”25/10/07AoTCR#011

# Assumptions

- That this is Bigstone Initiative. Bigstone agreed to start the pilot and have invested over \$150 000 from their Off Reserve Program with the intent of incubating this initiative and transferring to the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs.
- That this Provincial Government initiative. This is First Nation initiative based on Self Determination and Nation Building.
- That Off Reserve Funding is only for Off Reserve. First Nations have to compete with Inuit, Métis for Federal dollars that are transferred to the province for Off Reserve.

**CROWN**

**CANADA**

**PROVINCIAL  
CROWN**

**FEDERAL CROWN**

# Facts

- Alberta had a 2.2 billion dollar surplus
- Alberta has the strongest economy since 1993 in comparison to their counter parts
- 54% of First Nation population is living-off reserve
- Chiefs want First Nations to be directly involved
- 20 Communities Overall
- Constitutes over 65% total First Nations Population
- There are more then 13 Housing authorities
- Out of 20 communities 6 provide some form of housing assist their members living off reserve
- 14 have stated that they do not have an adequate voice at provincial level
- Assembly of Treaty Chiefs need to develop a new Housing Strategy to force both levels of government to maintain the Fiduciary Responsibility.
- OHA has completed the initial consultation process and has determined the following.

# Challenges

- No Funding (21)
- High cost of living/housing (5)
- No Province Wide Housing Authority and or Program (4)
- Income levels/Credit history (4)
- Processing Time (3)
- Policies/Procedures (3)

## How can you minimize challenges?

- Education/Awareness/Communication (10)
- Develop plan/policies (5)
- Reduce Debt (4)
- Off Reserve Representative (3)

# Conceptual Design

**There is a need to establish an Entity for First Nations to ensure:**

- Home Ownership (8)
- Build equity for individuals (8)
- Improve the quality of life (8)
- FN Off reserve member support (6)
- Supports Independence (4)
- Greater Housing / alternatives (3)
- Access to funding (2)

## How can we improve situation?

- Increasing Education and Information with a communication strategy (12)
- Establish Housing Committee/Rep. (6)
- Create a First Nation Housing Program Alberta wide (4)
- Representation from each Treaty Area (3)
- FN to be recognized by Province (2)

## Disadvantages

- Non qualifiers (5)
- Limited Funding (4)
- Default payments (4)
- Selection of Candidates (3)
- Price of homes (3)

## How to Overcome Disadvantages

- Communication/education/information (9)
- Keep Politics out (4)
- Agreement (Protocol) (4)
- Unity (3)
- Evaluations (3)
- Proper structure/organization/program (2)
- Financial Planning (2)

## Challenges this concept faces?

- Long term funding commitment (6)
- Unity (5)
- Home Prices (4)
- Efficient / equal Application Process (3)

## How can we minimize Challenges faced by this concept?

- Communication/ Info (5)
- Unity (3)
- Establish Agreement using a Best practices model (3)

# Key Success Factors to make Concept Work

- Education/Presentations/Awareness (6)
- Terms of Reference/Agreement (6)
- Support System (4)
- Application Selection (3)
- Success Stories/Information (3)
- Fairness/equality (3)

## Willingness to further support the Pilot

- Yes (14)
- No (0)
- Abstained (6)

# Where do we go from here?

- When the Federal Government transfers funds to Entities it does so through Trust Agreements
- With support of the Chiefs we would recommend the establishment of Entity to engage in Trust Agreements for the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs Housing Initiative
- “The Assembly of Chiefs of Alberta are in support of Off-Reserve Self Help Housing, with the understanding that First Nations Housing Authorities in Alberta can have a regional body to develop collective agreements, and”

# FIRST NATIONS HOUSING TRUST

ASSEMBLY OF TREATY CHIEFS



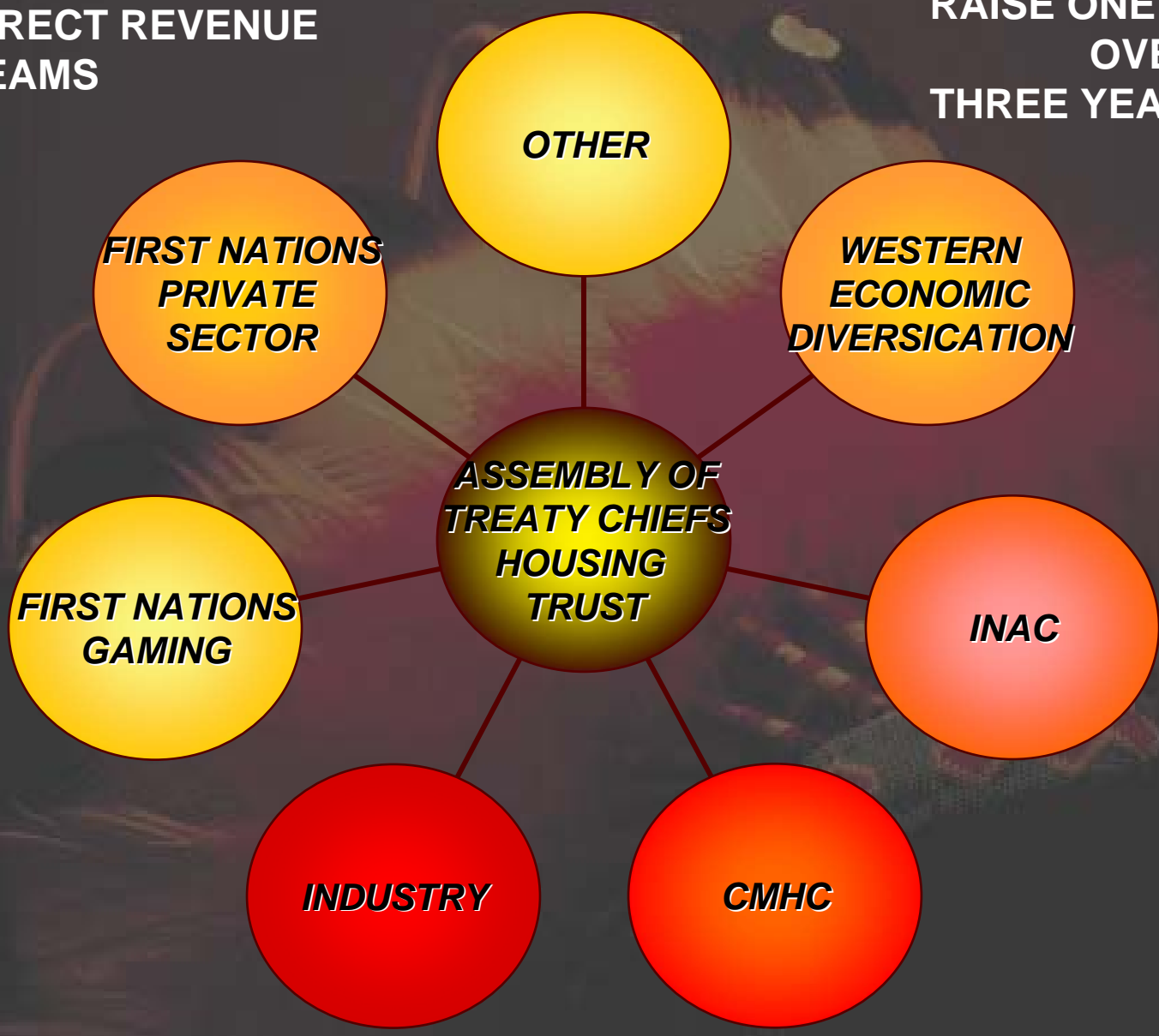
TRUST AGREEMENT

PROVINCIAL  
GOVERNMENT

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

**REDIRECT REVENUE  
STREAMS**

**RAISE ONE BILLION  
OVER A  
THREE YEAR PERIOD**



Phase 2 Draft Structure

**CHIEFS EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**  
3 Chiefs from AoTC

**BOARD**  
2 Reps from  
Treaty 6,7,8

**Program  
Delivery**

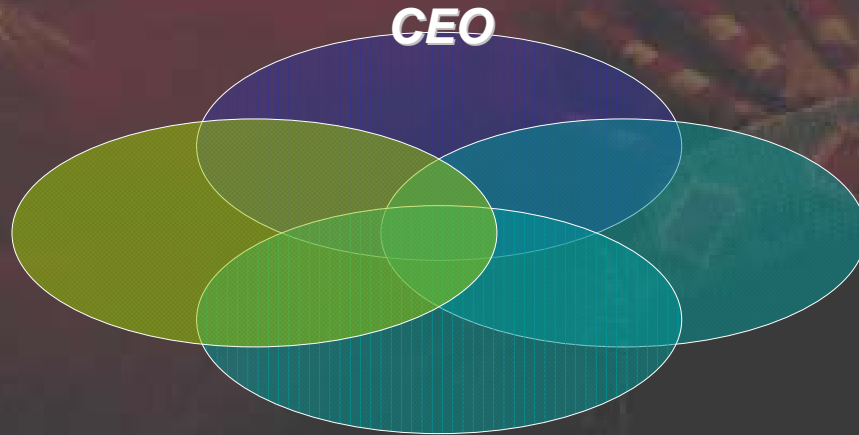
**Planning  
And  
Development**

**CEO**

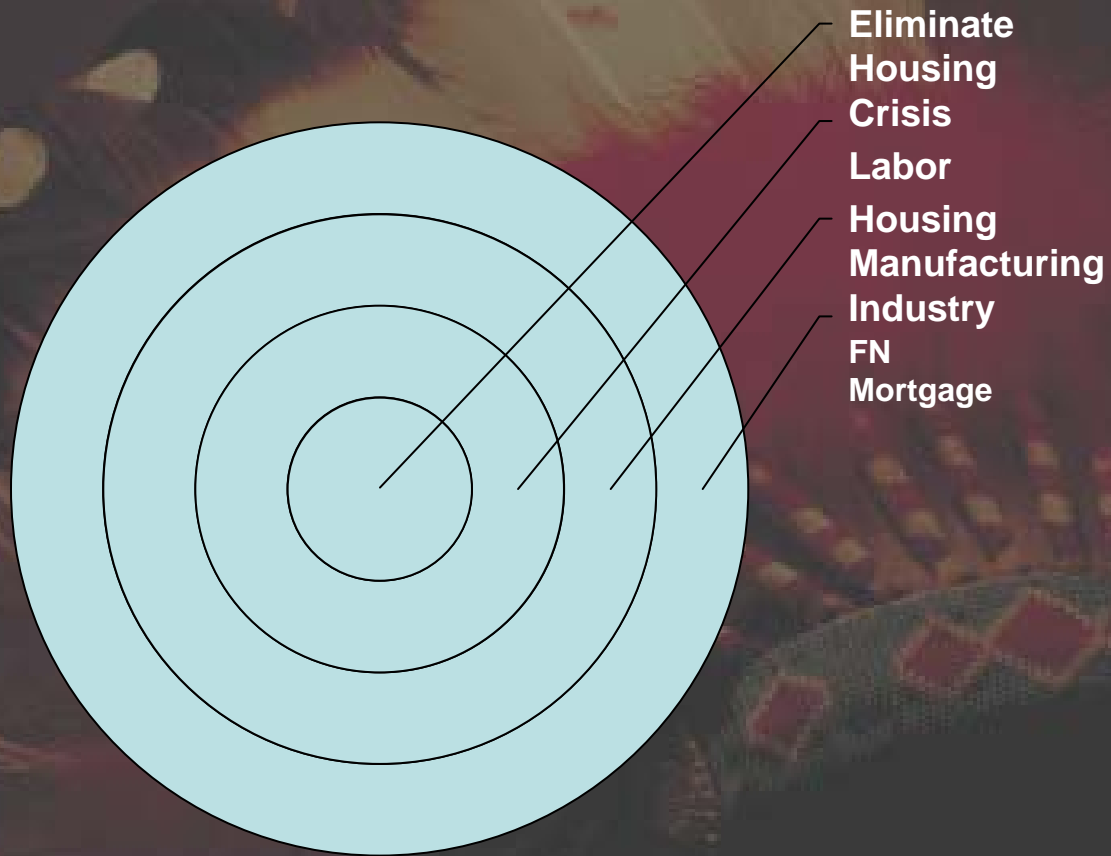
**TREATY 6  
DIRECTOR**

**TREATY 7  
DIRECTOR**

**TREATY 8  
DIRECTOR**



# Economic Opportunities



# RECOMMENDATIONS

- ASSEMBLY OF TREATY CHIEFS ENDORSE CONCEPT OF CREATING ENTITY
- BIGSTONE (OHA) BE THE INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE ARM UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT THE ENTITY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED WITH PROPER CHECKS AND BALANCES ARE IN PLACE.
- ASSEMBLY OF TREATY CHIEFS CALL FOR A MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND MINISTER OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH PROTOCOL AGREEMENTS THAT WILL COINCIDE WITH ASPERATIONS OF ASEMBLY OF TREATY CHIEFS.