Neha Review Panel

August 6, 2025

>> EMILY PARADIS: Good morning, everyone.

>> I'm really sorry, I have to leave about 12:00 unfortunately at midday.

>> EMILY PARADIS: Thank you for warning us. No worries.

Good morning. We are just going to have a little mic test for everyone. But before that, I am going to introduce the team.

I am very, very happy to welcome you all at this commission for Neha which we'll be talking about the inclusive right and adequate housing for women, Trans, nonbinary people, and people from diversity.

I am Emily Paradis, I am a manager and work with the National Housing Council, and I am joining you today from the territory of the Anishinaabe Haudenosaunee and the Huron Wendat in Toronto.

And I would like to introduce my colleagues Maria and Vanessa who will -- who are going to make a small technical presentation before we start the dialogues.

Maria, you have the floor to do the mic tests.

>> MARIA ISABELLA CALLAROTTI: Hi, everyone. I am Maria Isabella. I am a Project Manager also with the National Council for Housing.

Before we do the sound checks and mic, I am going to give a few instructions on the different services, the linguistic services we

have today.

We have interpretation, and we also have sign languages both in Quebec language and in English. So to have access to interpretation, you can please click on the icon of the globe that is at the bottom of your screen. That globe for interpretation is on the tool bar. And here you can select the language of your choice, either French or English or sign languages, Quebec and sign language American.

And we also have transcription. If you do need it, there will be a link in the chat box. You will have access to it. Click on it and you will have access to transcription.

And if ever you have technical difficulties or if you need help to have access to these services or whatever else, please do not hesitate to write me privately and I will do my best to attend to your need.

And just before we do the mic test, we are going to go one person at a time. You can simply just say a few words so we can ensure that we hear you properly. Whoever is ready to start.

First, I see Patricia?

>> ROXANNE CHEVREFILS LEBLANC: Hi. Yes, my name is Roxanne. I am using someone else's computer. That's why the name is written Patricia and not Roxanne.

>> MARIA ISABELLA CALLAROTTI: I'm sorry about this, Roxanne. Thank you. Now we have move to Marjolaine.

>> MARJOLAINE MICHEL: Hi. I don't know what else to say for now.

>> MARIA ISABELLA CALLAROTTI: Hi, Marjolaine. Can I have Leila?

>> Hi. I am using Leila's computer, but my name is Lily, also known

as Lisette Perron.

>> MARIA ISABELLA CALLAROTTI: Then I have Annie. I cannot hear you on my side. Unfortunately, we cannot hear you.

>> ANNIE RAINVILLE: Is it better now? Are you hearing me? Yes, you can hear me? Okay. Good. Thank you.

>> MARIA ISABELLA CALLAROTTI: Then I have Cylvie.

>> CYLVIE: Yes. Good morning. I'm Cylvie with a C and I'm hearing you very well. Can you all hear me?

>> MARIA ISABELLA CALLAROTTI: Yes, we hear you. Thank you very much, Cylvie.

Next one, Vanessa, I believe we can move forward.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you very much, Maria. Good morning, everyone. As my colleague Emily mentioned, I am Vanessa Paul, a policy analyst at the Secretary of the National Housing Council based in Ottawa, and I am joining you today from the Anishinaabe Algonquin territory. I am very happy to wish you all welcome to this meeting.

And I believe I was in touch with each one of you to prepare this meeting. So in the name of the Review Commission, I thank you for your interest. I thank you for your participation.

I'm going to go very quickly around a few information notes on consent and also the available resources. And finally, on how the structure of the event will be.

First of all, as you perhaps read it in the consent form that was sent to you and that some of you have already signed, the dialogue will be recorded and will be published on the website of the National

Housing Council. So all personal information of the participants as names, recording everything and will be sent to the National Housing Council. And probably will be also on social networks, reports, also on other documents. So in joining this meeting, all of the participants agree that these are all dialogue, virtual oral dialogue will be recorded and will be made public.

However, I would like to mention that you do have the choice, you can decide which question you wish to answer and which you don't want to answer, whatever you want to share. And you can only share whatever you're comfortable with knowing that this conversation will be recorded and published.

Now in terms of available resources, as many of you, some of you know, today's conversation will go around -- will be around the sensitive topics, so it is possible that some of you at some point be bothered or troubled by the discussion either now or with things that are coming. So I invite you to take the time that you need to take care of yourself. We have indicated some resources that are available, and I am going to put them on the chat so you can have access to these resources if you so need. You can also save them.

And now about the structure of the meeting. I would like to mention that it's going to be led by the members of the Review Committee. Unfortunately, Marie Pascaline Menono seems to be having technical issues. We are waiting for her participation, for her to connect. But Sylvia Maracle has graciously accepted to lead the meeting while we wait for Marie Pascaline.

So very briefly, I am going to finish by telling you that this first part of the meeting will start now and will end at 2:45. So as to let everyone to have the possibility to take part, to exchange, each one will have exclusive speaking time in regard to depending on the question that will be asked. So I will invite you to please keep that in mind. You will have the time that you have when we start the conversation.

That's all the information. I wish you all welcome. Have a wonderful meeting. And now I'm going to give the floor to Sylvia Maracle who is going to do the land acknowledgment and also will open the meeting. Over to you, Sylvia.

>> SYLVIA MARACLE: Greetings and thanksgiving. We're all on different territories, so I will ask each of you to think about the fact that you have the privilege of living on First Nations, Métis, and Inuit territories. And that there is an obligation and obligations that go back into the 1600s about how we would get along, how we would behave.

So usually the speaker gather together the minds and hearts of the people. And as we look around, we see each one of you as we can see you and hopefully that you are in seemingly good health and good mind that we ask that the helpers from the Spirit world, your helpers and mine, will help us get through this and understand that it is not an easy task to talk about housing as a human right. We're still trying to learn how to address that and deal with it. But we know that it must be.

So we'll look to the natural world and to the Spirit world, wherever you come from, we'll be grateful for the things that creation has given us and grateful that we have this opportunity to set down our own in some respect and think about how to make life better for people who don't have all of the things that some of us have.

I am but one speaker, so if there is something that you need to fix, do it in your heart, in your mind. And say thank you for all that we have been given.

"Donato" is when the Iroquois people are finishing talking about something. So you can relax your shoulders then.

We are -- before I talk about this belt, this is a Wampum belt. It was a treaty with the Dutch and the English and, in fact, the French as well in 1613. And it said it's called in English the two-row Wampum. In Mohawk, it's the Guswenta. It says that we have both paths. That's those dark purple in the middle of it. We have a path to follow. And the only thing that should separate us was peace, friendship, and respect.

Now, we know that that has not happened, has it, or we wouldn't have homeless or we wouldn't have people with addictions who have no supports. We wouldn't be tossing away the 2SLGBTQQIA because we don't understand the community and their life. And it would go on and on.

So we wanted to do this differently. There have been all kinds of commissions, the Royal Commission, the Missing and Murdered, and all kinds of various other formats, Indian Residential School. And there's sort of no doubt that we can't keep trying to do the same thing the same way all the time.

So we thought why don't we come up with some questions and ask people the questions. If they don't like the questions, they can tell us whatever they want. As opposed to a more formal process.

So I hope to keep it informal. It doesn't mean that we won't be getting the job done.

So Canada several years ago created a new housing act and embedded in the housing act that housing was a human right. And that process also created the Homeless Advocate. And it has been our job as a National Housing Council to come up with what's safe and what's affordable. This is our seventh gathering. A couple of them were very large in a big ballroom in a hotel in Ottawa that had a couple hundred people in it. Others have been small.

We have talked to the disabled community. We have talked to young people. We have talked to the LGBT community. We have talked to women who originally tabled that they -- in the legislation there can be interveners and they can say look, we want to talk about this, and that's what sort of sets up this process.

And so I hope that we're doing it differently. We have an opportunity to exchange knowledge with each other. And this, as you saw on your invite, is the seventh of these gatherings. So we're accumulating quite a bit.

You have heard my colleagues aren't here today. Pamela Glode Desrochers, who is a Mi'kmaw from Nova Scotia. She was elected President of the National Association of Friendship Centres last week, and magically, she already had all these duties. So she sends her regrets.

We have all this staff who will make sure that we are on topic and that, as you have been told, there is a process for it.

So I'm not sure if I want to say anything else. I don't want to drag you down any sort of avenue.

We do know from the homeless count that there's something like 1.2 million units required just to house them. Just to house them.

So we're not talking about a tiny little initiative that's going to build 40 houses somewhere. We have to look at it as much bigger.

And we also have to look at -- we don't all have to be comfortable in the same houses. Yes, there are developers out there and they have an idea, but people in Vancouver talked to us about developers are really good at making a few units set aside for disabled people. But they don't fix the elevator all the time, so they're trapped in their condos or their places. That's not safe. And it's also not affordable.

So while I see on today's agenda that we're somehow saying it's inclusive realization of the right to adequate housing that [indiscernible] left behind is I gather one of the new statements that the staff want to put on a T-shirt. But we want to talk about safe, affordable housing. That's what we started with. You can talk about whatever you want. And you're welcome to be here.

So I think that takes me to I'm supposed to begin.

So we created a series of questions. There are four of them usually. And we have asked all of the groups the same thing so that you have some foundation that we can look at.

So each of you will be given the opportunity to speak for a few

minutes. And they always tell you that it's two minutes per participant, but I have yet to experience that personally with this committee. Right? Just to let you know.

So what we want to start with is I have told you a little bit about the panel and review process. We have talked about -- we would like you to introduce yourself because you probably don't all know each other. And then I will pose the first question to you.

Does anybody want to introduce themselves? You only got two minutes, so don't tell me everything.

>> Lisette has her hand up. Go on, Lisette.

>> LISETTE PERRON: Good morning. Are you hearing me?

We're talking about housing now, and I have had -- I was homeless from 2007, 2008, but I have had the great opportunity to have support. Because it could have -- that you must absolutely have an external support psychological to be able to stay in a house.

So if the women who gave me that support, you must have it because when you get to the apartment, you don't know what to do, you don't know how to pay for it, and you have these women who gave me really the opportunity to manage and pay for my rent, pay for my phone. And it's been 2007 to 2025, 18 years I have been with the [indiscernible] and they keep on paying for my rent, and I have the necessary support, the psychological support that I need with them.

And I was in modest housing, it was 25% of my revenue. The problem with that is that the apartment, it's people who have mental health issues and some of them don't take their drugs, and there are conflicts

that occur. There's this woman who is troubling me. But no one -- and not -- I have talked about it, but nothing is being done. So we hope that things will follow. But although I have psychological support -- [inaudible]

La rue des Femmes, I can call at any time and someone is always answering me and supporting me. I think it is very necessary. I think I went beyond my time. I'm sorry.

>> SYLVIA MARACLE: That's okay. Thank you.

Next? Cylvie?

>> CYLVIE: Hi. My name is Cylvie with a C. I am part of a group of seven women and we are called the perfect. So that's it for my introduction.

I was homeless for eight years. Lily spoke about La rue des Femmes and I spoke about [indiscernible] who came to help me to ensure that I was able to become stable and get stable housing instead of an uncertain residential stability.

So it's been nine years that I have been living in the [indiscernible] where 25% of my income goes toward my rent. And it's been four years that I have had my dream place. So thank you very much. I'm looking forward to discussing with all the participants here today. Thank you.

>> SYLVIA MARACLE: Annie?

>> ANNIE RAINVILLE: Yes. Can you hear me?

Okay. I am not -- I spent 12 years on the street in and out. I lived in camping in [indiscernible] and I had backpacks and I was in

shelters as well.

I also had the personality disorder due to drug consumption, and I was vulnerable as well since I didn't have any family.

I was a victim of sexual assault, as well as economic and psychological assault and other traumas as well. Fear not, I also had some protection in my life. As Cylvie with a C mentioned, I met a group of women involved in the participative research on homelessness, and they are there to raise awareness. And I found a job as a writer at the [indiscernible], they are editors of the newspaper sector. And they also put in place tools for prevention.

And it's thanks to efforts and residents that I worked hard to afford housing. And my trajectory was drastically changed when I found a place on the 3629 [indiscernible] apartments. Thank you.

>> SYLVIA MARACLE: Thank you.

Next? Roxanne, do you want to go?

>> VANESSA PAUL: I think Marjolaine had her hand up.

>> SYLVIA MARACLE: Okay. Marjolaine?

>> MARJOLAINE MICHEL: So I am Marjolaine, and I was homeless for a short period of time. But I work with homeless people every day. I have been doing that for the last five years. And I am aware of the issues they are facing because I face them as well and I experienced them. So I am very lucky because I have a very supportive network. They help me in the last few years, they housed me and helped find solutions to improve and better my life.

So it's not something that's always accessible to everyone, not

everyone has supporting -- has a supportive network. So yes, I am here today to talk about what I see, what I hear, as well as what I experienced. So thank you.

>> SYLVIA MARACLE: Thank you.

>> ROXANNE CHÈVREFILS LEBLANC: My name is Roxanne. I have been in an apartment for two years now with the organization [French language] and they have really supported me. I am currently studying, so it was harder for me to find a place since I am receiving grants and groceries. So I spent ten years on the streets before I got to this place.

>> SYLVIA MARACLE: Thank you.

Who else?

>> VANESSA PAUL: I think we have got all five represented already. So maybe we can proceed with the first question.

>> SYLVIA MARACLE: All right.

So there are four questions. The first one is what actions are needed to effectively implement the right to Housing in Quebec for women, for Two Spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse people?

Many of you talked about some support and how women who you met helped you. But what actions do you think we need to be clear about when we're presenting our report?

Okay. Lily, you have your hand up? No? Yes. Go ahead.

>> LISETTE PERRON: So I am part of the Perfect group [French language] and I know Cylvie and Annie since we are part of the same group. And what I would like to say is honestly, there's not enough housing and the housing is quite expensive. So some people here, it's expensive

for most people since a number of homeless individuals has increased. Right now, we're in 2025, and it doesn't make any sense. A lot more older people find themselves on the street. There are 1.5 million house that you suggested.

But I think that we need more housing due to the increased number of homeless people, especially in Montreal. It doesn't make any sense. I have a friend who lives in the [French language] and there are homeless people everywhere.

So we really need to find -- to create housing where individuals can use 25% of their revenues to cover the cost. So that's it. I think that the Government needs to invest more beyond just having a condo because individuals who have affordable housing so their homes are being bought by rich people, so now they can no longer afford expenses for housing. So the Government needs to create more affordable housing. Thank you very much.

>> MARJOLAINE MICHEL: Sorry, I didn't hear the first question. I wasn't having the subtitles.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Okay. I will read the question in French.

What do you hope will be the outcome of our report since the National Housing Council will submit a report to the Minister? So the question is as follows.

What do you hope will be the outcome of our report? And what is one important message you want our report to communicate to decision makers?

>> MARJOLAINE MICHEL: Okay. Perfect. Thank you.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Annie, I think you had your hand raised.

>> ANNIE RAINVILLE: Yes. One of my expectations would be for the decision makers to listen to the voices of individuals looking for housing. And that they rely on the experiences of people, so the lived experiences of such individuals for the decision makers to really go toward individuals who have experienced homelessness and who know what it is to live in housing that is not appropriate or adequate.

So my motivation is because the housing is not necessarily the solution, can individuals pay for their housing to do the dishes and what to do, the clutter in the apartment. For 12 years, they told me how and when to take a bath, when to eat, and when to ease myself.

And especially when it comes to security, in some housing, I had to ask my boyfriend at the time to monitor the bathroom door or the washroom door when I had to ease myself or to ensure that no one gets in while I was taking my bath.

On some floors, there are individuals who consume drugs, and they were always present all the time. And for someone who takes crack, the dollars we have in our pocket sometimes, people come and knock on our doors to request for money. So we have to see how to remedy this situation. Thank you.

>> SYLVIA MARACLE: Thank you. Cylvie, do you have your hand up? No? She's talking to somebody else.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Marjolaine has her hand up.

>> MARJOLAINE MICHEL: So what I would like to focus on you today, I would like it to not just be a report we see like all the other reports

that have been published. But we need a concrete action. For sure, it's important for the individuals with lived experiences to be included in the discussion. We do not just want this report to be added to the other reports that have piled up. We need a solution.

In fact, we need the Government to hear this message and to see how to invest and not just a year without doing anything and not just build housing to sell. But people's lived experiences need to be taken into account because of the agreement. Transgender to see and show that the people's lived experiences are taken into account.

And yeah, also in terms of resources, the resources put in place to not necessarily need to be emergency help and shelters. But the Government needs to put in place long-term resources and invest in society because in the end, it will be a win-win for everyone. So the Government needs to avoid discrimination.

Today I am making more money than I have ever made in my life, even though my rent takes about 44% of my income. And this is a two-bedroom apartment. And this is rent so that is expensive at this time according to others. So it's not normal for the middle class to become the new lower class. And that a lot of middle class individuals are on the street.

So there are a lot of things that decision makers need to put in place. And I hope that our discussion and that the report will indeed allow decision makers to put in place a concrete action. Thank you very much.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Cylvie, you have the floor.

>> CYLVIE: Hi. I would like to add to what Marjolaine said. And I hope that it won't be another report that would be piled up alongside the already existing reports. I'm sure that several reports already existing.

And the reason for participating here today is the fact that we are given the opportunity to express ourselves. For sure, we are tired of hearing that 100,000 units that will be built over the next, say, few years, 20, 30 years. So we need to keep going without losing our breath.

Okay. So thank you very much in advance. Hi, Annie. And hi, everyone else.

>> SYLVIA MARACLE: Okay. Did everyone get to speak on that question, if they chose?

>> VANESSA PAUL: Maybe we can check with Roxanne. Roxanne, we haven't heard from you. Do you have something to say? Okay.

So maybe I will ask the second question, Sylvia.

So the second question we wanted to talk about touches on inclusive housing. We want to know in your own words what does inclusive housing look like, especially for transgender and Two Spirit individuals? And do you have any examples you could share with us?

I will post the question in the chat to ensure you could refer to it.

I would like to hear from you, what are your perspectives or what can you tell us especially for inclusive housing for Two Spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse people? How is this type of housing

different from the ones we have today? And what could be useful? How is it different from what we have now, and what are some promising examples of what can be done?

>> MARJOLAINE MICHEL: In fact, for me, instead of giving grants to owners and investors for them to continue purchasing rental units, it will be in fact to discuss with individuals from LGBTQ communities for them to build their own [indiscernible] and the individual members would be able to establish their own rules and admissibility or eligibility criteria. So in fact it will be for the decision makers to offer grants to such individuals to create more housing units.

And when we talk about housing units, I am okay with every type of housing, but we also need to take into consideration the type of assaults and experiences that the homeless people have had, especially women. Perhaps it would be nice to have housing just available for Trans individuals. Because if we look at the experience, the assault, especially for women compared to the one experienced by men, if the person is a woman entirely other than being born female or assigned female gender at birth, so it will be important to have specific services in place.

Sorry for the lighting. I will do something about it later.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Cylvie, I think you are next in line. We can't hear you, Cylvie. I think you're on mute.

>> CYLVIE: Okay. I had trouble with my mic.

I recently -- okay. So when I recently became homeless, I didn't have a specific address so there was a social worker who was administering

my checks. And the social worker was working hard to find housing for me. Because according to her, forward two years -- I could still find housing. I will talk about the full proposal offer that she gave me. I wouldn't necessarily mention the areas since not everyone knows the area.

So I got to this building, the concierge told me about the unit. It was on the second floor. And it was summer and it was about 100 degrees in the unit. And there was a single bed, a table, and a chair. No bathtub, just a simple bathtub. And I looked at the details and I asked is there a measuring tape? And he said of course, yes. He gave me the measuring tape, and I measured the room. And that room was smaller than a prison cell.

So I told the concierge right away that I need to speak to my social worker and will be back tomorrow.

So the next day, I went to my social worker's office and told her oh, come with me, let's go take a tour. And we got to the building entrance, I introduced myself, and the concierge took us to the second floor and he opened the unit door. I told my social worker will you yourself live here? And I told her it's smaller than my prison cell. And suddenly, she was shocked and couldn't believe. And she was really shocked by the experience when she saw the room.

So I'm sure you wouldn't doubt me that I refused to take this room. And we headed back to her office, and I pretty much said I don't want to work with her anymore.

So this is an example of counterinclusive. So I have experienced

this situation. So I hope you do believe me. Thank you for listening to me.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you very much, Cylvie.

>> ROXANNE CHÈVREFILS LEBLANC: Yes. For me, an example of inclusivity would be for owners to not discriminate. I faced homelessness as a young person, even if I am now almost 30 years. Sometimes, in my opinion, an inclusive apartment would be an apartment that is not too expensive, as it is the case nowadays.

I am not sure how to express myself. I'm sorry.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Do not worry, Roxanne. I think you shared the important point on inclusive housing in terms of discrimination, especially for those in need. So we have taken note of your point.

Annie, I think you have your hand up?

>> ANNIE RAINVILLE: Yes. I would like to answer the question in my own way. What does inclusive housing look like? For me, it's especially with regards to security and safety, even if I am a sex worker and I am on the streets, I am entitled to feel safe at home.

Also, we need support and follow-up, especially for individuals who have had traumatic experiences and been victims of violence and assault. So for individuals who do not want to be followed and assaulted in the stairs. And sometimes in the social housing, there is a lack of cleanliness and safety. So when women are in such situations, they really do not want to move from there to go into a similar environment.

And also we do not have sufficient housing, especially in the neighborhoods where the rate of crime is increasing. For instance,

in the apartments, the people used to partake in sex work and now they have a hard time changing jobs.

Thank you very much. That's it for me.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Cylvie, would you like to add something? Thank you, Annie.

>> CYLVIE: Yes. I just wanted to say that the room in that building was offered to women and men, and the washrooms were shared, as well as the kitchen and the bathroom. There was no fridge with a lock. So pretty much, we couldn't put anything or store anything in the fridges available. That's the point I wanted to add. Thank you.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you very much.

Lily, would you like to add something? Yes. You may go ahead.

>> LISETTE PERRON: What I would like to state is that I am part of [indiscernible]. And to have access to affordable housing, if I could say so, one needs to stay for at least two years. Cylvie spoke about the prison, but it looked like that. And a door that once it was opened, there was pretty much no more space to move around. So the individual needed to stay there for two years before having access to another unit and other options.

And also for the apartment that I visited, the lady took me and we had a tour where it was small and maybe it was one and a half bigger than the one on Avenue [indiscernible]. And I looked at the unit and I said oh, there will be bedbugs here. And they said no. But I said oh, maybe give me some time. And it's funny because with the lady in question, do not ask me her name, she will probably recognize herself.

And I said how long does it take for the bedbugs? So that was a sacrifice that the lady wanted to put me in that unit. And luckily, I had the opportunity to say no. Because several times, if a unit is refused, then the chances to have another unit are very slim. So I spoke about the bedbugs so that's the reason why she gave me the opportunity to have another unit. That's what I wanted to add. Thank you very much.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you very much, Lisette. I think that maybe we will ask the third question. That is pretty much a combination of your last message, as well your expectations.

So one of the questions we had in mind from the get go was what are your expectations in fact from your participation in today's conversation? I think that most of you have already mentioned a few points on this question. Maybe to conclude, I would like to ask you what is your final message that you would like to send to the Housing Minister? We asked this same question to several other previous participants. So perhaps what could we do in terms of sharing your message to the Housing Minister in conclusion to this conversation?

Marjolaine, I think your hand was raised.

>> MARJOLAINE MICHEL: Are we talking about --

>> VANESSA PAUL: No. The Housing Federal Minister.

>> MARJOLAINE MICHEL: Okay. Federal. If not, I would have been like -- she shared that this community was especially toward people who are currently looking for affordable housing.

What I would like to say is that we need to stop promulgating laws or enacting laws that wouldn't give everyone the right to adequate

housing. And we also need to stop dismantling camping because that's the minimum security that individuals have in terms of community to ensure they are protected. Because that allows them to have a community rather than being isolated.

So perhaps it will be nice to enact a constitutional law to ensure that individuals are not displaced before having right offers to ensure that it can pursue their specific situations.

Firstly, there are people who really need affordable housing to ensure that their situation doesn't become worse, especially for private housing. We need to avoid owners who abuse their tenants to ensure that there are laws in place that protect tenants. And also more money needs to be invested in the social aspect.

That's it. Thank you.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you, Marjolaine. I believe, Annie, you will be next.

>> ANNIE RAINVILLE: Yes. Thank you.

So what do I hope is an outcome of this report? I have already talked about it's really the follow-up of the person that is unhoused, and also the safety of the person that is unhoused. So most people who have gone through homelessness have had traumas. We don't want to live in an apartment or houses. I have seen people sleeping on the floor even after their house or someone living in the living room and feeling threatened or even someone not being able to open the door. Housing is not the solution. We need a proper follow-up.

And I think we need psychosocial follow-up and measures of

security. Stop thinking that we are going to get over it without street gangs and all of that. Don't hide in your offices when all these homeless people are -- look at what is done in the world and take example.

I think we need to see what is done elsewhere in Canada and in the world with people from diversity of gender, LGBTQ, and women and so on.

And also be inspired by what was done has been done and what has worked. Thank you.

>> VANESSA PAUL: So you will be the next one, Lisette. Thank you very much, Annie.

>> LISETTE PERRON: You mean, Lily?

>> VANESSA PAUL: Yes, Lisette.

>> LISETTE PERRON: What do we expect from the Ministry and Housing Ministry? Please forgive my swearing word, but there needs to be more houses at 25%. And as Cylvie was saying, they need to put it on top of other files that they have. They need to get to work right now. It makes no sense. All of these people on the streets, it doesn't make any sense. It can happen to anyone. It can happen to anyone. You know you can get through depression, whatever, and try and get an apartment. It's 1,200 for a small apartment. Please give us affordable housing. It makes no sense.

And as Marjolaine was saying with the camps, stop moving them. It's the only place where they have to sleep. Please leave them in peace, at least they have their own corner that is protecting them from rain and wind. In any case, if they move from there, they will

go on the next corner of the street. They will go to next, another street corner. Please stop moving them and leave them in peace. Let there be a law, there must be a law that allows these people at least to have a tent.

It's a lack of dignity in regards to them -- the Ministry, to the Government, leave these people in peace. Already they are in the street, and now please give them peace. We want more houses at 25% of -- Mr. and Mrs. The Minister, I don't know who it is, but please do something for this to be done. Let's just not speak like this, but it must be expected, they must listen to us and hear how angry we are. We need houses. There needs to be houses for these people to live in during the winter. It makes no sense. And now we have come to 2025, and we need these people to have a roof. Please leave them alone for all those camps.

I'm sorry about this anger that I'm displaying. But it has to come out. They have to stop just blah, blah, blah and get to actions. It's not to you I'm speaking, I'm speaking to Minister, to the Government.

Thank you very much.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you, Lisette. It is for this reason that you have been invited. It's for you to communicate the different challenges that you have met and bringing suggestions. So if we thought -- we thank you really greatly for sharing your perspective, your story in regards to this dialogue.

Cylvie, you will be next.

>> CYLVIE: Good morning. Thank you, Marjolaine, for your word. I

go in the same vein, I totally agree. And I will probably explain it less better than you. And thank you, Lily, for getting angry. That's what you must do.

I'm going to emphasize on what Annie said. From 2009 to 2013, the Government in terms of mental health, it gave 60,000 in five years for the project. It was in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver -- okay, I'm missing one. And it was about going to get people who have no home and homeless people with mental issues and finding them a home. And also there are accompaniment with the two agents who would help them and so on. They could come in the office. It was nice, it was wonderful. This has been an example. But it went too quickly. The successes were really obvious and great.

And then there was no money from the Federal. We tried as much as possible to keep our participants in their homes, but continuing having a follow-up and with new themes of intervention. Because me, my contract ended, and it was very difficult emotionally and on all levels, it was very hard to work there. I have helped a woman and all of this, you have to keep -- and I'm still in touch with the people that I helped even after all these years. But why can't they do another one of these similar program? Continuing with the -- not just the money of the people of the mental health commission of Canada, but all of the -- anything that touches clothes to housing to mental health come together and do something and work for a project that will gather people, a unique project instead of just spreading yourselves out, making 3,000 promises. And as I was saying earlier, which most

of will get worse on the reports that are already with the red tape. So please have more, do what you have to do instead of just adding new projects.

I'm not going to excuse myself about what I'm saying. Stop saying by 2013 this and that. Now. It is now. It is -- we must come together as a society because I am ashamed of the society in which I live. It's not right that a province like us that is wealthy lives in this way and that there are people with psychosis in the road, on the street, in tents. It's a shame.

And for me, if I was a tourist guide welcoming tourists here when they arrive in Montreal, I would take them right away to visit the tent. That's where I would take them to see so they would see the city in which I live. I am ashamed. Thank you.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you very much, Cylvie. We greatly appreciate your comments, the important points that you rose in regards to this what's working and what's not working.

I think we are coming to the end of this session, so I'm going to give the floor to the President of the Commission simply to give us the opportunity perhaps to have a few comments in regards to what has been said. And in the follow-up, I'm going to make a small summary to make sure that your points were well understood, well received in terms of the Commission's work.

Just one second, Sylvia.

Cylvie, perhaps you want to add something? I think I believe I saw your hand raised.

>> CYLVIE: I simply wanted to thank you for the beautiful opportunity that you have offered, that you have given us today. You see there's already a multitude. But please don't give up. Keep organizing such forums. Thank you for giving us the right to speak today. Thank you.

>> VANESSA PAUL: It's nothing, Cylvie. It's a right, and it is by the right of the law, the act on national strategy is to you have the right to express yourself in this meeting and in other forums to make -- to speak of the right of the homeless for us.

So we thank you for your participation today.

Sylvia, would you like to add anything before I do a wrap up? I think you're muted, Sylvia.

>> SYLVIA MARACLE: Yes. So as I said, we have literally heard probably from, I don't know how many hundred people now. And it's all the same in some respects. And each of you have your own lived experience. What doesn't make sense is that they keep trying to do things the same way as Governments and expect different outcomes. So it is a human right. So now they have to start looking at what does it look like as a human right.

Helping developers by distracting whole blocks of your old cities could well easily be rehabbed to create more housing. People who have been incarcerated and can't get out because there's nowhere to live. They did something, they served their time, and yet there's nowhere for them to go.

Lots of people, as you know, lose their children. So we would rather pay $1,000 a day for someone to take your child away instead

of giving you that so the child can grow up being surrounded by love.

So we have to do things differently.

And the big scrap, as you know is always said, provincial and some provinces have very strong opinions, like the one you're all trying to operate in and where I live in Ontario as well. And British Columbia. And they all have to get on the same bandwagon. They cannot be doing stuff that creates the gaps in the system you're talking about.

And I think you will find that the National Housing Committee as a bigger body have already had conversations about people need supports. Not everybody is available to go into a house right away.

I will tell you, when I was little, I grew up on a First Nations. We didn't have running water. We were the running water, the kids. We had to run to the well and get the water. We couldn't turn something on.

And we also didn't have electricity. And it made it hard for us until I was about 12 years old to try to do homework. How do you do homework in the dark in the winter?

And it -- those kinds of patterns that we keep repeating. And there were women who came who actually were the ones who intervened so we had this body created. And they talked about everybody doesn't need a house that looks the same in the neighborhood. And several of them talked about building their own houses, about going out in the bush near where they lived and bringing logs in and doing all kinds of things. I don't imagine that will happen in downtown Halifax or Montreal or Toronto or Regina or Saskatoon or Winnipeg or wherever.

I know that we can do better. And doing better is just respecting people where they're at as human beings and create a process that allows them to move forward in that.

So I'm not exactly sure, the committee hasn't met now that we're sort of getting to the end of all the hearings about the kinds of things that we will recommend. But we do have a meeting coming up with the Housing Council, I think next week, and we have to have the report done by November. I'm pushing for early in November. I know that the staff who are on this phone line aren't particularly happy. But we need to do it before the Government makes up this big fantastical new budget and people who are poor and people who are homeless and people who have mental health issues or addictions problems don't have safe, affordable housing.

And I made the comment about the front of the sheet that we're talking about the right to adequate housing so no one is left behind. But the outcome that we're looking for, is it safe? You talked a lot about safety. And is it affordable?

So I think our little quip was correct. And I want to thank you for spending the time.

Who is doing the wrap up? Or is that it?

>> VANESSA PAUL: I will do a quick wrap up from what was heard. And then we'll close with [indiscernible] Sylvia.

Hello. Simply to sum up with a few words what was heard today.

First, before anything else, I want in the name of the Review Committee to thank you for your participation. Thank you for the

perspectives that you shared. Thank you also for the challenges that you raised.

I took notes that you talked about what is working. So in the context of Neha, the solutions, Cylvie, in your petition, you talked about how the La rue des Femmes gave you a support, an essential support. And this demonstrates to which point all of the work of this organization is very important and efficient in terms of the question of housing and the homelessness.

Annie, you talked about what you know and how you need to be on the field. [Indiscernible] it was difficult as students, we ask you to have access to housing, but not having a proper job and all. You also talked about how housing at 25% of revenue is important. So these seven elements are important in [indiscernible].

I saw your hand raised. Do you want to add someone?

>> MARJOLAINE MICHEL: When you said me and Roxanne that it was hard as students. But I did not say anything --

>> VANESSA PAUL: So I was talking about Roxanne. I'm sorry. I made the point of what you said earlier when you introduced yourself on how your surroundings supported you. And Roxanne also talked about support. Thank you for your intervention.

So I think in summary, you talked about how adequate housing, all of that is fundamental to housing, that it ensures safety, affordability, accessibility. And you all talked about how the questions of subsidy for people having lived experiences and other populations, how they have done it. And you talked about how some houses

that are provided are not adequate. I think one of the participants talked about how a house could look like the structure of a prison. Roxanne talked about how adequate housing must have no form of discrimination.

Cylvie, did you want to add anything before I go on?

>> CYLVIE: Yes. I'm going to open a parenthesis that I find important. Where I was hosted at the work -- the evening -- only 12 spaces were available. So they would take me there, my agents would take me there in the evening. No money to call. I would come in first. So at the evening, they gave me a week to find a house. And it's the last Friday we are to sleep there that I found the small apartment 10 feet by 22. I was coming out of prison. No residential paper. [Indiscernible]

Given that, I don't know who said someone told someone living outside the community house -- a tent in the living room. And meant to help me live there, they made a transition.

So the first week, I was living six nights in the underground, it was like the basement, and one night in the apartment. So we did two, three, one, two, then zero. And they provided me with everything I needed in my daily activities to leave.

And I had another social worker who would come and pay for the rent. To show my check was 389 and rent was 265. So 134 a month, that's all I had for the month to live. I was addicted and all. So it was very, very, very difficult. I only had 134 total to live per month. So I went to a depression. I have lived too much -- I needed to have someone in mental health to help me in my first year in my house.

So I simply wanted to share this with you.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you very much, Cylvie. I think with the former conversation we have had, many participants also rose this point. In the houses, this needs to also come with appropriate services in terms of access to the community, access to services for mental health. So that point is also well written down.

And simply to finish with what we heard earlier, you also talked about the question of gender which knows a huge extension access to housing and what people need. And you also rose the point that the deciders must be also listening to those who are working with the tenants, the beneficiaries of services of the Government.

And I believe, Marjolaine, you mentioned that it was, what, maybe 44% of your revenue and you said this situation is not right and that it will be important to have access to houses about this.

In summary, I wrote down everything you mentioned. I'm going to mention this and keep this summary ready. So Marjolaine, you said that simply we need to -- you have laws that support the right to housing instead of going against that right.

So Annie, you talked about the question of follow-up and safety either for those who were in houses, we cannot have security in the way that things are. You rose -- someone else rose a question of the 25% that way. But you said that the Government must have much more actions and also listen to the perspective and the anger of the tenants and beneficiaries of the subsidies.

And Cylvie, you supported the permanent housing first and

mentioned to which point it worked and it's a beautiful opportunity to answer to the challenges of it.

So here it is. I believe I have made -- I hope I have made a summary that really reflects everything that was discussed today. I thank you one more time for sharing with us your ideas. So I'm going to give back the floor to Sylvia who is going to conclude the session and close with the land acknowledgment. Thank you.

Sylvia, we can't hear you. You're muted.

>> SYLVIA MARACLE: It's the responsibility of the speaker to gather together the minds and the hearts of the people. It is -- and in doing so, we have had an opportunity to speak to each other and to increase some of our knowledge, some of our experiences and share them. And when people respond positively to you and you're alone in a dark place, you can wrap that around yourself as you're moving forward.

So our Neha, our ways are buried in our traditions. And we are buried in the traditions of the natural world and the Spirit world. And the natural world doesn't say some people can have a house and some people can't. It goes about its duties and responsibilities covering the earth, creating fire, nowadays sharing food, taking care of each other.

So we'll hope that this panel is different than all the other ones before them. And that we will find some ways. But again, we as a National Committee will be looking at it from a perspective of human rights. We have all kinds of human rights that say that we can't be homophobic, we can't kick people out who are Trans because we couldn't

identify them in the beginning. There are all kinds of behaviors that we have to stop.

The Government is saying that it's going about creating all this change. So we hope that they aren't just talking, that they will use all of the physical knowledge, emotional, and spiritual things they can to move us forward. But again, as a speaker, I am only but one.

So be it in your minds and your hearts.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you so much, Sylvia.

I wanted to mention we have put in the chat a link for you. It's a small survey. If you have the time, we appreciate that you please fill in the survey. It's going to take less than two minutes. It's simply two questions for you to please evaluate this conversation and to give us your feedback.

So I invite you to please take care of yourself. Use the resources that we put in the chat earlier. And I thank you greatly for your participation today and for the Review Committee. So as I said earlier, we had a request from the people from the Commission that couldn't be present, but I know that in spirit, they are with us.

And we would like to thank you again for your participation. I'm going to put in the chat the resources that are available.

Maybe I will ask my colleague to please -- thank you for publishing in the chat. Thank you very much for your participation. I hope we can see you soon. Have a nice afternoon, everyone. Bye.

[Break]

>> EMILY PARADIS: Hi. Welcome, everyone. We will wait a few seconds for everyone to join us in our Zoom meeting room. And I invite you all to please turn on your cameras. Thank you.

Hi. I would like to introduce myself. I am Emily Paradis. I am manager -- I am the Review Panel manager within the National Housing Council. I am really delighted to welcome you to this virtual dialogue of the Neha Review Panel touching on the right to safe and affordable housing, as well as adequate housing for Two Spirit women, transgender, and gender-diverse people.

So before we continue, I would like to inform you all that we have a simultaneous interpretation, as well as other services that my colleagues will introduce in a moment.

If you wish to have interpretation in English and French, you can find it in the "More" button at the bottom of your Zoom screen. You can find interpretation by clicking on the "More" button. You see the circle with three dots at the bottom of your screen.

I am joining you today from the land of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, and Huron Wendat people in Toronto. And unfortunately, one of the Review Panel members, Marie Pascaline Menono, wasn't able to join us today. So my colleague Vanessa Paul, the organizer of this session, will help us moderate the session with the help of our President, Sylvia.

I would also like to introduce my colleague, Maria Isabella Callarotti, who will now introduce the technical services you have

access to today. I would like to wish you a great dialogue.

>> MARIA ISABELLA CALLAROTTI: Hi, everyone. Thank you, Emily, for the introduction. My name is Maria Isabella, I am a project officer within the National Housing Council. And I would like to share a few important points on the simultaneous interpretation available today. We also have LSQ and ASL services offered. And you can access interpretation by clicking on the "More" button, the globe icon titled "Interpretation." If you click on that, you will be able to access all the interpretation services offered to you today to ensure you can listen or see in your preferred language.

We also have subtitling or closed captioning in realtime. I will post in the chat the links for you to access closed captions in the language of your choice.

And if ever you encounter technical problems or challenges or if you need help accessing this service, please feel free at any time to send me a private message in the chat. Thank you very much.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you very much, Marie. Hi, everyone, and welcome. As my colleague Emily mentioned, I am Vanessa Paul. I was in contact with each one of you or perhaps in contact with the person who designated you to participate.

So I am based in Ottawa, and I am joining you from the Anishinaabe Algonquin territory or land. I would like to thank you for your participation, your interest in this conversation today. And on behalf of the Neha Review Panel, I would like to thank you.

I will quickly talk about a few information tied to consent and

resources available for support in case the need arises.

So first of all, as you probably read or in the consent form that was sent to you, this dialogue would be recorded and transcribed, as well as published on the National Housing Council website. So all personal contact information of the participants, such as their names and where they are, would be collected. But the personal information would not be there and probably it will be published on the National Housing Council website and on its social media and public documents.

So by attending this session, all the participants in this dialogue accept that this conversation be recorded, transcribed, and published.

And I would also like to mention that you are free to choose the questions you would like to answer. So I would like to invite you to share uniquely what you feel free sharing by keeping in mind that the information will be published.

Also, we do have supports. Perhaps this conversation might be viewed as containing sensitive subject. So in case you need help throughout the meeting or in the next few days following this meeting, please feel free to request support if need be and take care of yourself. My colleague is currently posting in the chat resources available 24/7 in case the need arises. So feel free to copy and paste and save this information for later use.

Also as my colleague Emily mentioned, one of our members, Marie Pascaline Menono, is currently not available. So the conversation will be moderated by the President of the Review Panel. We already had part

one of this meeting. And right now, we are having part two which will end at 2:30. And I also wanted to mention that since we have a lot of participants, we want to ensure fairness, so we would allocate about a two to five minutes to each participant depending on the question asked.

That's it for me. I would like to thank you once more for your participation. And now I would like to invite Sylvia Maracle to introduce herself as well as do her land acknowledgment. And that will be followed by the first question that is inviting all of you guys to introduce yourselves.

>> SYLVIA MARACLE: Greetings to all of you. I see a friendly face in the crowd. I don't always. But hello, Édith. We were young when we started all this work and not so now, I guess.

So the Elder who would normally be here to do the opening has forgot about it because that's what happens when you retire. You don't look at your daytimer or whatever anymore. And she's enjoying the festival in Montreal. So I will offer the word that we use for all others, and I will tell you the concept that we have built to make this different than every other national committee asking a question for people who don't have resources and who don't have power.

So I will start that.

I'm a Mohawk from Tyendinaga. I'm a member of the Wolf Clan. And I had the good fortune to be raised by my grandmother who was not sent to residential school. And she didn't read or write. But she didn't need to. She knew how to raise 60-some grandchildren and how to take

care of us and how to feed us and how to console us.

And my grandfather went to the Carlisle Indian Day School in upper New York state along the Hudson Valley. And he became a railway engineer. So he was away, and she was a single parent for most of the time.

And she taught us to never forget where we came from. That's important that we have a place where there's some comfort and some understanding for us.

So when we were talking about doing things differently, not like a Royal Commission, not like an investigation, not like Indian residential schools, but do it differently. And that's where the concept came from Mohawk words that say [speaking Indigenous language] the notion of Iroquois terms. We're talking about the belt. And that's our Neha. And Neha means the way that we should live. So when the speaker is opening something, they remind us that we exist at the good will of the natural world and the Spirit world. That we have all in our lives as we have walked forward on the pathway to peace, we have learned lessons, we have information to share. We have learned to care about people.

And while we do this, we're doing it in a way so that the natural world and the Spirit world will help us along the way. And that includes physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual concepts of a human being. We shouldn't just say housing is this. It's a building. It has to be part of a wholeness when we look at the world. And we know that a lot of our people don't have that.

So on behalf of our Elder from Ganewage, I will offer you the

thanksgiving, the welcome. And I will offer you those few words. And again, people who know me on the phone know I can do an opening prayer for an hour. So I won't do it today, okay?

And the other thing that I have responsibility to do is talk about why we decided we didn't want to do it like everybody else did it. And I have been around working for a long time. I worked for 53 years as both a volunteer and worked in the Friendship Center movement nationally. I have sat on a justice council, I have done all kinds of things.

When I look back at the things that I learned and that became important for me to move forward, I learned things about the belts, about the confederacy has these Wampum belts made from the quahog shell and they're usually done with a small drill, believer it or not, that you hold in between your teeth and move back and forth to make them. You can get them bought for you now.

But it's said that when the European -- we already knew that the European was coming and part of that relationship would be chaos. That the peace would be disturbed. And we know all kinds of things have happened to us. It doesn't matter whether you're Indigenous from here, it's about where you're Indigenous from. Right?

The Irish had their potato crops destroyed. You know? Other people had other kinds of things. So for us, it was important that we documented things as we went forward.

This belt is called the Guswenta. It translates as the two row Wampum. It said that when we met, we were going to have to pick our

own path, our own way to go down the river. And the only things that would separate us were trust, friendship, and respect. And we don't have those things anymore. The system is such as it is and particularly in housing where the National Housing Advocate said there's over 1.2 million homeless people. That's how many units we have to build just to deal with people who are homeless. Not people who are couch surfing or getting a spot here or there or kept in jail longer because they can't get out or have their kids taken away because they can't support them and all that that's going on. We could spend it on safe, affordable housing. We could do it.

And so Neha with the belt, and I don't know how many times I have told this story, is a way for us to quit looking at royal commissions or just any commissions or investigations and hear from people. Not hear from all the experts.

I had the luck to be the chair of a nonprofit housing corporation in Ontario. And I think I was its chair for 25 years. And it is the largest Indigenous nonprofit in the country. It has $1 billion with assets. They could go into any bank and borrow money and build what they want. And we would like to see that for everybody. We would like to see that everybody can live in those houses. That sex workers are safe. That Two Spirit, LGBT, that people have a place where they're not tempted when they get released from jail. And more importantly, where families can build their lives.

So we're trying to use this trust, friendship, and respect notion to move it forward. And we have -- this is I guess our eighth session.

We have had very large ones. It requires in the legislation, the National Housing Act, that housing is now a human right. But we haven't done anything that says if we have human rights, how do we live? How do we move forward with that? What can we do? So if housing is a human right, we shouldn't be just looking people on the sidewalks going by wherever you live. Or we shouldn't have so many people that lives in a house in a First Nation or Inuit community where grandparents and children have to sleep and take time to sleep because there's not enough places for them to rest.

And that creates the next cycle of psychological, emotional, besides just physical issues. And we have to look at those things.

And people are very, very quick to say we live in a great country. We could live in a greater country. And housing is important for that.

So I will leave you with those words. And welcome you.

You have already heard there will be a series and you will be encouraged to, first, to introduce yourself and tell us. And there will be a series of questions that you will be asked, that everyone is being asked. Basically, as we're wrapping up, to try to say how did the notions of the principles of truth, friendship, and respect, how could we apply that to housing? And how could we look at changing the system?

We'll also ask you for what you want to get out of these discussions. How can we address gender-diverse people? Because people are sometimes afraid. They're human beings. They know who they are.

We'll also ask you to talk about what's the most important message

you want us to take forward in our report.

And I'm very sorry, Pamela Glode Desrochers is one of the members of the National Housing Council. She was elected last week as the President of the National Association of Friendship Centers and found that there had been some meetings made on her behalf. She cannot be here.

And the other we were hoping we were going to come who is originally from the Ivory Coast, but is living in Montreal and has been involved in lots of grassroot development, Marie Pascaline Menono. And me. We'll start drafting soon. You're in the last sort of level of people. We will do some follow up with people. And we may have -- and people we interviewed found they had interesting things for us to address.

And just remember it is a piece of national legislation. It has human rights built into it. So this panel, which is what it's called in the legislation, is for us to investigate a situation, to make recommendations to the Minister, and ultimately going to Cabinet to look at what we can do.

So I'm glad you're here. And I don't know, am I doing the questions now? Or --

>> VANESSA PAUL: I will take over. Thank you so much, Sylvia, for grounding us in for this part of this dialogue.

So we will get started. First of all, a quick introduction. I would like to invite you to present and introduce yourself by telling us about your role, as well as your organization, as well as the expertise you would like to share with us here today during the discussion before

we move to the questions. This will be an opportunity for us to get to know ourselves here today.

On my screen, I can see Sébastien Pierre. So now please take over. Please free to introduce yourself to the group here today.

We can't hear you, Sébastien.

>> SÉBASTIEN PIERRE: Can you hear me now? Okay.

Sorry for the technical issue. Thank you very much. It's quite surprising for me to be the first to talk. I'm the development director for -- I am in the real estate sector. I have been doing that for 20 years now. So I am Director of Real Estate Development at Project Mothers in Power, Interloge. I work on community projects and everything that touches oppressions in buildings, apartments, et cetera.

And right now, I am on development for Interloge. What is Interloge? It's a not for profit organization that has been existing since 1998. And it's in [indiscernible] so we try to provide affordable housing that is at the heart of our mission. We want to ensure housing is safe and sustainable. And we are also fighting against residential exclusion. And pretty much we are hoping to have a centered and fair approach, equitable approach, especially for marginalized groups, especially women, transgender, and Two Spirited people. That's the reason why it will be -- it was important for us to contribute to this commission.

We create social housing and we try to make them as affordable as possible, especially for the LGBTQ community. We are everywhere in Montreal and that is quite important. So that is what we do. And

I'm open to discussing with you further.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you very much.

Now I have Gaëlle Guillaume. And please take over and introduce yourself for one minute so we can have time for questions. Gaëlle, you have the floor.

>> GAËLLE GUILLAUME: I am an agent, a housing agent, real estate with the [indiscernible] so we are housing for Government. So it's the crossroads between services. We do accompaniment, and we also do housing.

We have been working since 1987, so we work with women, housing, homes, all projects, real estate development and so on. Simply to add also we are very focused on intervention with the intersectional people.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you very much, Gaëlle. Very happy to have you.

Now I have Elisabeth as the next person. Over to you.

>> ELISABETH GREISSLER: Thank you. Thank you very much for organizing this event. I am a social worker by training. I am a professor at the School of Social Work with the University of Montreal. And I am working -- I have worked on the question collective memory on fight to poverty, collective defense on human rights, people who are marginalized and focusing specifically on questions of gender and identity. Large spectrum questions of marginality. And I have also worked on questions, the intervention approaches, housing, residential trajectories of people and so on. Thank you.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you, Elisabeth.

Marianne, you are next.

>> MARIANNE FORGUES: Thank you. Hi. I am the director of housing for one of the 32 host houses of the heart. And we offer services of people 18 to 30 who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you. And welcome.

>> ÉDITH CLOUTIER: Hi. Good morning. I am Édith Cloutier. First, I would like to acknowledge my great friend Sylvia Maracle. It's really good to see you and to have this conversation. It's a great opportunity.

I am a General Director of the Indigenous Center for 35 years. We are part of a great national movement of organization which is part of the greatest infrastructure of services for Indigenous people in cities. So we are working to offer a range of services. I would say we have been doing this for more than 60 years. It's a range of services either in justice, education, health, housing, community housing. So it's a pleasure to take part in this conversation today.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you. Now I have Jacinthe Rivard as the next speaker.

>> JACINTHE RIVARD: Hi. Thank you for the invitation. Hi, everyone. I am a researcher attached to the -- on the network for youth in Quebec, also a social worker, University of Montreal. Now I have doing research and have been doing it for many years. And right now, close to the community organizations working with people, institutions of homelessness. So my main work is around homelessness, all populations, all different spectrum of the population. I led the research that led to the three women you met this morning.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you, Jacinthe. We did have three participants this morning who spoke about this project which is very, very appreciated in Quebec. So thank you very much for joining us today. Probably we are going to talk about it in a different perspective now.

Leila, you are next on my screen.

>> LEILA MORIN BOUR: Hi, good morning, everyone. I am Leila Bour. I am a social worker for La rue des Femmes. La rue des Femmes is an organization that offers services to women in homelessness with an approach on relational health. So an approach that will consider the health of -- the impact of post traumatic situations giving them the ability to develop -- affecting their ability to develop relationships with others. So I help women go through this on a daily basis, also dealing with housing as they are facing the different obstacles that one can face. Thank you.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you, Leila. Welcome.

An Meilodi, you are next on the list.

>> AN MEILODI PAQUET: Hi, I am Meilodi. I work at the YWCA in Quebec giving housing to women in situations of homelessness. I have been working for five years. Right now, I have a new position in support, community support. I know the reality of people in situations of homelessness, and that's why I'm here today. Thank you.

>> VANESSA PAUL: So Sabine, you are next.

>> SABINE FRIESINGER: Hi, good morning. Thank you. I'm Sabine Friesinger. I am here for the Community Housing Transformation Center. I'm replacing Lisa Ker unfortunately who is sick. I'm here and speaking

to you from Montreal, the center of transformational housing, community housing. It's a transform community housing. We are all throughout the country and all the whole territory of the [indiscernible] as it is called. So we look to find partnerships, a key actor in the -- it's much bigger. So we also fund projects accompany people, anything to do with innovation in community housing.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you, Sabine. And welcome.

Brigitte, you are next on my screen.

>> BRIGITTE NADON: Good morning, everyone. I'm just going to take a few minutes to say thanks, Sylvia, for the introduction of the meeting, which was very inspiring. I am a she, I carry the people [indiscernible] I have been in [indiscernible] three weeks. And it's a new fire that we're carrying. So this is something the committee has done for more than 25 years. And also I deal with the housing discrimination, and it's in that regard that I'm here today.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you for joining us, Brigitte.

Kaye Carado, you are next.

>> KAYE CARADO: Hi, I'm Kaye Carado. I'm replacing Solange -- I work for the services for women. I'm the coordinator for transition programs and apartments. So my role is to -- to ensure residential stability. It's a pleasure to be here.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you, Kaye.

So we have been able to go around to do a virtual round table. So now we are going to go on with the questions. As we mentioned in the emails, also as the President mentioned, we have a few discussion

questions. You have the freedom to explore them in your own way. You are looking at your own [indiscernible] and the points that you find most important.

So the first question we have is what actions are necessary for the right to housing be implemented in Quebec for women, Two Spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse people. My colleague is going to write down the question in the chat box. In fact, we're trying to find out which action initiative you think are really necessary for the implementation of the right to housing be implemented in Quebec. I'm not going to force anyone to take the floor first. So I will let you decide for yourself. And then progressively, I can share the mic. Know that you have one to two minutes, please, to express your point.

Go on, Leila.

>> LEILA MORIN BOUR: Hi. Thank you.

If I can just start first off [indiscernible] access to housing, I think it's important to mention social homes via the 25% of the income. So if we can reduce the waiting list for social housing.

First of all, it's not only the number of houses that are a problem, but also the support and the external support which is very important to maintain people. So I think people need psychological support to be -- to remain in their homes, but also to find a balance of ensuring the safety and security of the homes who are respecting people's autonomy for them to not feel heard in their own rights. I think this is something that often comes back in the criteria for access to home.

So also something that was put in place to manage this, I just

want to say that the beautiful initiative, however with the clientele with which I am working, it does not always lead to more access to housing. Because even if someone needs a grant, they need to be able to pay for a house. And even if the person has access, they are not exempt to all the discrimination that is out there. They will have credit verification and all. They have prejudices on their appearances and all. So this does not necessarily answer to the need of access to housing.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you very much, Leila.

So people have raised different access. Sometimes we don't take this into account, access to credit and also something to look in the creation and development of housing.

Gaëlle, you are next on my screen. Please go on.

>> GAËLLE GUILLAUME: I think it was Sébastien before me.

>> SÉBASTIEN PIERRE: Go on, Gaëlle. It's fine.

>> GAËLLE GUILLAUME: Something that we are claiming is the creation of a fund, funding programs specific to hosting homes for women. So this will be an approach centered on the need of the woman that is a victim of domestic violence regardless of the type of violence that she has gone through. Sometimes we're going to have financial violence, home violence, domestic violence. It is what we mainly know. If we see something also that is in the processes -- we see the -- and for us, it's very important. Also we see this also even with the support so that the need for actions is not always interpreted the same way with the programs.

So we are going to have -- we are going to leave the funding in terms of the space of intervention offices. So we would not -- this is not going to be reflected in our analysis at the table. So this makes that -- the houses for housing for women so they are not as efficient because they don't reflect exactly the analysis that we make.

So this is the part that Leila was talking about earlier in terms of everything to do with the programs and expectation dedicated to each individual for rent. But also we see a lack of consideration in regards to women when they have been abused, victims of domestic violence.

So there's something that already exists or it needs to be perfected. And also it needs to be personalized for people who are victim of domestic violence.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Sébastien, you are next on my screen. And quickly, I just wanted to mention that given that we have interpretation, it would be very nice to please reduce so that interpreters can interpret in English for those who are listening in English.

Please go on, Sébastien. Thank you.

>> SÉBASTIEN PIERRE: Well, my point is going to meet that what has been said. I think there needs to be an acknowledgment of the systemic inequalities in the public policies. First in acknowledging this is going to create a foundation and bring targeted funding for the projects that are carried by women, for women, and for people who are Trans and Indigenous, all racialized people. So there needs to be support for such groups.

So this recognition will ease this. But also we need to have clear

criterias for this, about what we're talking about. So clear inclusion of the groups that are targeted to consultation tables, where there are projects that are being done, projects in connection to the problems that have been targeted, adapted to only a specific audience or to specific needs.

So we need training to tell us about racism, handicap people with disabilities. So not just that we hear here and there that it exists, but also seeing it, visualizing it so that we can terminate that problem.

Also we need -- there needs to be a certain control of things. Yes, we can do things, but everything is controlled by the Government. The intention is to adjust this project so that we can provide the people what they need, what is necessary.

All of that will make sure in the long term, the projects are viable and sustainable.

>> VANESSA PAUL: I think Marianne is next on my list. I'm following the order that is on my screen.

>> MARIANNE FORGUES: Thank you. I'm not going to repeat what was mentioned because I think they raised very important points in terms of inequalities, discrimination in existing programs. So I think it will be interesting perhaps in existing programs and those to be developed to have an approach of [indiscernible] in the creation of programs, in particular developing housing from private authorizations. So it would be not just a community, but if we invest in the private sector, I think it will be interesting also that all this be subject to -- and that people add such value.

I want to come back to the notion of intimacy. I think this is very important also and they can sleep away and this can take different forms. And I hear that people have been violent with women and the feeling of security can be quite different also to some people.

Also when we talk about how the [indiscernible] but the question of intimacy is not that important to those who almost have nothing.

So the idea for me not to create a house for you, or for women, but also there needs to be simply -- there needs to be a program where people are part of the community.

>> INTERPRETER: Sorry, interpreter did not hear the whole point on that.

>> ELISABETH GREISSLER: Thank you. I think it is a difficult question. I'm going to try and bring solutions that I think are quite modest. But it's a reflection that is crossing my mind for many years.

So research, as I expressed earlier, with a colleague, we thought about this question wondering if we didn't need to also move when we talk about change of paradigm. That instead of talking about right of housing, that we talk about the right to exist. And this comes back to the things that have been said about the affordable, the basis is -- but also an exercise of citizenship. The right to exist in the public space just the same way as anyone else, of course. It's not a question of you -- of rule or -- but in the end, to go further around this question, to think about a way to fight the discrimination, the speakers testified.

And also I would add the question of no recourse that makes the problem [indiscernible] so in recognition of the right which the lack

of understanding, also the lack of proposal for another way. Some have interpreted it as the -- so it's that question, the fact of the right to exist.

So when we talk about the global approach, it's a question of housing that is more structured. So we have already talked about intersectionality. But I think this treats more of the question of poverty and do not do more -- I'm questioning myself on this. First the -- reduce things to a question of access. And when I say "we," I mean in the public policies, we somehow have this tendency of reducing things, pushing problems away. Not enough recognition of the work that is done on the field and the people.

In a way, also, sometimes public policies do put in competition the community organizations as to have access to funding.

I don't know if I'm clear enough. And I'm also questioning myself as a professor on the training of the students and future agents in the field on the fact that they are not completely out of the reflection. I believe they're not completely out of the reflection right now.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you very much, Elisabeth. I think so far the interventions are around this question of inclusion so that's why we're talking about our own homes. We talk about dignity, we talk about inclusion of all the elements. And finally that creates this right of access to housing. So thank you very much for mentioning this.

I will take two last people because we have to move to the next question. I see Édith has her hand raised. I will give you the floor.

>> ÉDITH CLOUTIER: Thank you very much Elisabeth. This moves me,

really comes to mind, it meets what I was thinking for Indigenous people. For us, you will understand that everything that I will say is really will be around that reality because, of course, it's through the of the mission that we are dealing with. Many aspects, one of which is housing. For us, it needs a specific help, specific understanding of the reality of Indigenous people when we talk about public policies, right to housing when we want to define through the approaches linked with access to housing.

So it's a specific letter, of course, to best understand the historical differences, historical realities and things that are proposed to Indigenous people. I speak to an audience that is very sensitive to that reality. But also to be interested on the journey of Indigenous people rather than the specific condition of homelessness. We know that Indigenous people are part of the community whom even after having presented 5% of the Quebec community, we are underrepresented.

So this is where I joined Elisabeth who talked about how we [indiscernible] because this is what I'm being proposed with the center of friendship of Indigenous people. We must consider all the different aspects of lives.

So for 50 years, the center of housing -- so if we want to support the whole question of access to housing, we cannot do it if we're not supporting the whole question of improving the health of the people and giving them access to capacity of improving. For us, we need to see that all of this is taken into account and that it also considers

the conditions of life of Indigenous people. And I will come back to you with more.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Now I will give you the floor, Jacinthe, to conclude on this.

>> JACINTHE RIVARD: Thank you. I'm going to use key words because I really, really enjoy everything that has been said. Perhaps I will insist on new ways of living. So for us, we are holding summer school on the homelessness, and we have the custom of saying that this question of housing, homelessness is always a question of housing. But it's not only a question of housing. All the contextual elements that have been named and the women also this morning, we talked about things that come into account and that we cannot treat differently. We can't continue separating the different problematics. And when people are living it, they would also like to be received in all that we say they have to be received globally with others.

So clearly also we need to accompany the people. We talk about it as a way of working with them in their different types of models. But also we need to accompany now the population because there are all kinds of challenges to the fact of building something for people, for example, who leave the situation of homelessness. For us, the expression is not on my court. It's very present, and it creates all kinds of problems.

Of course, as an organization also that is making very little raising of awareness on what is homelessness, who are these people, what are the challenges that these people are facing? There are very

little, very few organizations doing it. And here, I think we can play our creativity here at this level.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you very much. It's very dynamic conversation for the first part.

I will go on with the second question, which is what does an adequate housing look like, taking into account the specific needs of women confronted to housing, racism, disability? How or what does an affordable housing look like? And what are the -- I think we have already discussed the first part. Perhaps we can insist somehow more on the examples, something done in addition to things you have seen. My colleague is going to write the second question in the chat. And we are going to keep on in the same vein. Please raise your hand if you have perspective to share on this. Thank you.

>> AN MEILODI PAQUET: Yes, when I saw the question, I thought about what could be done. Of course, there are many things that were done. Something that was done recently in Quebec was to buy a house that we will convert into a bedroom which is given to women who are living in the house. And we found this a very beautiful way to accompany these women not necessarily ready to go in a house alone because it's a new process of going back to a house on one's own and being stable. So we have noticed also recently that this has greatly helped. It was a way out for families to go in, some who often find themselves stuck into a home, houses.

So also these are the options. But I'm just going to say that in terms of immigrant women and those who don't have status, the options

are limited.

>> VANESSA PAUL: I'm not sure if it's just on my end, but the last part was cut out.

>> AN MEILODI PAQUET: I'm not sure when you couldn't hear me. But I just wanted to state that in fact it is difficult because we have noticed that for the last few years, there has been increase in the number of people seeking housing. So how do we address this issue? So I'm not sure. Maybe that's an option that could be looked into.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you. Thank you very much. I think that that's an important point. And I heard about it in a previous conversation, especially for immigrant women and women seeking asylum or seeking refuge in Canada. And several people also spoke about the difference in the services offered in the provinces.

And I think now, okay, I see Leila has raised their hand. Okay. I would also like to invite those who have already mentioned projects that are ongoing. Leila, I think now it's time for you to turn on your mic to speak up.

>> LEILA MORIN BOUR: I wanted to mention that for access to inclusive housing, you know that a lot of administrative barriers, especially for people who are homeless, I think it will be interesting to acknowledge some vulnerability and marginality of factors to look at the system to ensure we can facilitate it. For instance, access to housing. For instance, individuals who are currently homeless, it becomes hard for them to access our services. For instance, an individual who doesn't have any identification or no bank statement because they have not

updated their contact information.

So in fact, it will be a matter of providing these services to ensure that individuals have access to housing. So perhaps there was a system that was put in place by the Federal Government for marginalized individuals to allow them with a last name, a social insurance number, or a date of birth to access their file. And perhaps it would be nice to have this in place. I know that this is an example that was really implemented to facilitate or simplify your access despite the issues faced by homeless individuals because this is really something that bothers them.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you very much, Leila.

Brigitte, you are next in line.

>> BRIGITTE NADON: Yes. Another obstacle that hasn't been mentioned is the physical accessibility of the different locations. For housing, we have very limited accessible housing. There are some people who stay in violent situations due to the inaccessibility of the houses and the housing.

So perhaps in the new projects that will be funded, it will be important to seriously consider physical access to the different apartments and units. I know that the housing or the shelters are not all accessible. There are some of them that have staircases. It's easy to visualize a lady who is in a wheelchair who can't access housing due to the fact that the housing is not accessible. So the Government needs to really look into that. And I think I will stop here right now.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you. Thank you very much. I think I will be very -- I'm sure you will be glad to know that we will have a panel that will focus on the specific issue that you mentioned because it's a problem that needs to quickly be addressed in Canada.

Okay. So Édith, you are next before we get to the last question.

>> ÉDITH CLOUTIER: Thank you. You spoke about the types of models or examples. Indigenous Friendship Centres offer, and you probably heard about it during your consultations across the country, they offer a safe environment to promote cultural -- for instance, in Friendship Centres, about ten years ago, we launched a first project, social housing for Indigenous families. Obviously, given the system, we know about all the different programs in place. It's hard to put a circle in a square. So given the Indigenous context, we are currently promoting thanks to a social housing project the program that [indiscernible] to communities. So there were standards and criteria in place.

For instance, the size of the unit or the apartment. And we couldn't exceed some of the standards since most Indigenous families are large families. So they need apartments or houses with three to four, five bedrooms. Also the fact that large families are important. Grandmothers, aunts, cousins usually come together and live together. And this creates, in fact, the type of model.

And we also have to face the fact that in reality with the population, we saw that this project was quite a threat because we had to address the [indiscernible] of the project. So we had to be able to overcome the obstacles. So we worked with the Friendship Centre

to ensure that the Friendship Centre carries the weight of the project. They create settings and environments that are safe for those who want to be in such housing. And we wanted to also be an urban governance model that is autonomous within the Indigenous community.

So this capacity, so it really took one decade, and we also have a decade before us to clearly position ourselves with Indigenous people to be able to address the realities and meet the needs of the Indigenous population.

I think that's the path we need to follow in Canada to ensure that we provide a safe housing for Indigenous population.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you very much. You mentioned it and we heard about it in several conversations we had. We heard about the cultural appropriateness. And also self-determination in the housing.

This is a subject that has been very frequent in the conversations we have had. So thank you very much for raising this issue in a detailed manner.

Jacinthe, you are the last to speak on this question.

>> JACINTHE RIVARD: Okay. So I am lucky then since I'm the last. Thank you because you really paved the way. I would probably take a more macro stance at this time. In fact, I think that since the question has been asked on the national level, there's an element that we need to really understand that is to acknowledge the expertise and the immense work that has been done on the ground by community organizations. It did just provide an example.

So developing a national project, elaborating a national project

without consulting the experts firstly, obviously, a step was missed. Yes, maybe I would stop there right now.

So the project is clearly funded. It's funded. So that's an important value. Funded based on the mission rather than the project. In fact, respect the work of the organizations, some studies have been done on that to see the funders also contribute to homelessness because they are reorienting their funds, especially for the missions that have been succeeding and the organizations who work closely with the affected population.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you very much.

So we would now proceed to the last question. So it's as follows. What do you hope to see the results of our report? So allow me to remind you that the Review Panel is preparing a report for the Infrastructure and the Housing Minister. So the panel is collecting ideas and perspectives to help us elaborate our opinion and our recommendations.

According to you, what do you hope to see in the result of our report? What is the important message you want our report to convey to the decision makers? And if, for instance, there was one last message you wanted to send to the Housing Minister, what would it be?

Please go ahead, Sébastien.

>> SÉBASTIEN PIERRE: Before I tried to raise my hand. I don't know. I no longer have access to that option on Zoom. So sorry. Marianne?

>> MARIANNE FORGUES: I think Édith and Jacinthe really shaped the discussion. So funding mission, it's really important. It will be important for decision makers to understand that, in fact, community

organizations are the experts on the ground. So it will be nice to put in place a program that applies it to everything that takes into consideration the lived experiences so to perhaps allow community organizations more opportunities and flexibility, especially in terms of projects.

That's it. I will stop there.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you very much.

Sébastien, you are next in line.

>> SÉBASTIEN PIERRE: Thank you. I would like to add something regarding the last point. I think that everything was said in terms of security or safety. But let's not forget the integration of the community. Yes, projects need to be developed. But we need to ensure that we have services available to ensure fairness, justice, and appropriate support to assist individuals in case they encounter issues.

So if I can touch on the question you just asked, I think several others have already mentioned it. Housing is a basic human right. So how can I put it? The ability to -- in action to this inequality constitutes a constitutional violation. I think that the Government or what we expect from the Board would be to ensure that housing becomes a basic human right. And that should be the priority.

And also, prepare everything that touches funding. I'm not sure who spoke before me. Funding of all community organizations that support all the stakeholders who are working.

I think it will be important to put in place funding mechanisms, not something or funding process or applications or where these

organizations need to fight and compete to have access to funding. So we have to ensure funding is put in place to allow us to achieve the desired result.

So I will stop here.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you very much, Sébastien.

Before this discussion, we had a dialogue and the question of funding and control mechanisms was recurrent. So several reports we received from organizations working in Canada stated this important point. So it's very recurrent. Thank you very much for bringing it up.

Brigitte, you are next.

>> BRIGITTE NADON: I almost took down my hand. But I would like to reiterate the expertise of community groups for it to really be emphasized that housing is a right. It is not an asset that needs to be sold.

I would also like to say that we need to take into consideration a systemic discrimination faced by the groups here to ensure their prosperity despite the budget pressures.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you. Thank you.

Édith, you are next. You are on mute. We cannot hear you.

>> ÉDITH CLOUTIER: So I will try to speak to the issue of human rights. And I read what you mentioned that right to housing is to be acknowledged as a human right. And when we look at the Indigenous lens, I am probably not the first to say this. It is also the fact that this panel needs to take into consideration the link between Indigenous

peoples' right to housing and the 900 accommodations that we find in the different investigation commissions and reports, especially regarding the missing and murdered women, the call for justice that needs to be implemented. And everything needs to be done and linked or in connection with the different procedures you are putting in place.

So over 25 years ago, we see the ties, so it's quite relevant. And everything on the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, we also need to keep in mind that this is a very important point, this issue and this references, especially when a report has been drafted regarding housing and the Indigenous peoples' needs.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you very much, Édith.

I think that it will be important for Marie to hear this because she really talks about the conventions and the agreements that have been signed by Canada. So now it's a matter of implementing those decisions. I'm really glad to hear what you said.

So we have three people left. Feel free, Gaëlle, you are next in line.

>> GAËLLE GUILLAUME: Yes. It's still touching on the funding. It's a matter of stepping out of the notion of housing that there are affordable housing. We need to look at the different stages of funding development to exploitation because this might affect the project and it might be cause harm to the women who are housed there.

So something I'm really requesting from the Federation and what I mentioned earlier in terms of funding for the housing and the shelters is something that really needs to be encouraged. And given all of the

different parties here today, we have seen it in different projects. So it will be important to really recommend the different funding programs. And perhaps this will help for tracking transfers between the Federal Government and the Provincial. Because sometimes we have a hard time tracking, for instance, when we see that there are different funding that are put in place for the housing strategy, and sometimes they come from the Provincial Governments. Sometimes it's tough tracking them to know how much funds was sent or put toward the housing project.

And one other recommendation would be to establish a good partnership and good communication between the organization that would be the SHQ and M3S. It is something that has been extremely difficult on our end having this discussion even though in the funding request, we request for communications and that the shelters be funded for their services.

So for developers, all people who require the services, but afterwards, the communication is not clear. So really this is a recommendation we are sharing with you, and it will be nice to see how things could be improved as everyone mentioned. It would be nice to work together because we are probably facing the same challenges and issues. So this is a nice step to us resolving this in the future.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you very much.

>> ELISABETH GREISSLER: So thank you very much. I will be very brief. I agree with everything that has been said. We have heard that the solutions exist, and they are all known by the communities and the

key players.

In line with what I already mentioned, without any structural actions to account poverty, the issues of social exclusion, we will be able to talk about the right to housing. So that's my way of really emphasizing what has already been stated.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Now this brings us to the end of this discussion and chat. Now it's my turn to mention some points that you stated. I will not pretend that I will clearly mention everything that you said. Thank you for sharing. We have seen variety the opinions and perspectives being shared here today during the conversation.

We spoke about the different topics and themes such as the issue of shortage of social housing and the fact that we need to reflect the needs of the population when creating housing.

We also spoke about how to move the right to housing or perhaps combine it with the right to exist. The issues of autonomy and taking into account the population and forming of public policies.

We also spoke about the importance of community, especially for the population taking advantage and enjoying the service.

We spoke about accessibility, and all the elements of the conversation was quite rich.

And I think I will stop here to ensure we conclude on time. And I want to reassure you that we have taken clear notes of what you stated.

Now I would like to remind you that resources are available in case you might need them. My colleague will publish them in the chat.

And now I would like to invite the President of the Panel, Sylvia Maracle, in case she would like to say something, especially regarding what was shared here today before she concludes today's discussion. So Sylvia, you have the floor.

>> SYLVIA MARACLE: Thank you.

We have had -- one of the reasons that Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services is so -- is held up as a model is because we have looked at our culture. We used to have families living together or clans or whatever. So we created some opportunities, particularly for young parents, young women who have babies maybe before they're ready. And so there's a community [indiscernible] that's quite far north in Ontario. And they have a nursing station, but they don't have a hospital. And some of these older women need more hospital care. And I don't know, in many of the communities I have been to, there used to be a series of big schools that were made out of brick and huge rocks, usually two floors, no elevators. And what we did was we asked the City of Timmins to give it to us. And we renovated it so that grandma wasn't alone in the city and the kids who were being sent out from northern communities to go to school and particularly to post-secondary could help grandma and grandma could help them. That's one model.

In Dryden, women do a lot of shift work in the mines. And so we created a -- they all had their own space. And if they had three kids, they had space for three kids. And it was in a big round circle that we made it, and the center part was open for them. And we made sure that the washers and dryers were inside the units because that's one

of the reasons that in Ontario that the Child and Family Services will take your child away if you're down at the washing machine or dryer.

This stuff is ridiculous. And we spend an enormous amount of money trying to keep people separate as opposed to trying to create space for them together.

Believe it or not, the province of Alberta had a new process for heating in the winter. They paid for the pilot at the corporation where I was. Why? Alberta doesn't pay for their own bills, their own people there, but they wanted to show off.

So I know that there are lots of ideas and that you have many ideas. No matter where you come from, immigrant, refugee, the 2SLGBT community, Indigenous, all kinds of things, we have experiences that are part of our culture. And we have to learn that not -- I used to say this when I was young. White is not right. White is white. And we all have ideas in how to raise them and how to do them. And I think some of the things you have talked about absolutely looks at a different structure than it is. And having common spaces that are safe and having people looking out the window to make sure that your kids are okay while they're looking at theirs, those are not huge policy statements that people should make. Except the people who build it want money. And they have got to learn what human rights means.

So I will stop there. Will I do the closing?

>> VANESSA PAUL: Yes, please.

>> SYLVIA MARACLE: I don't think I have lost any of my zest. I hope not anyway.

It's the responsibility of the speaker to cover over the council fire that we have created. We were able to go through a journey that had difficult things to discuss. But there were no sharp sticks or sharp stones placed in our path, that we were given true abilities to dream, to not just prop up a structure that we inherited.

So we will look first to the natural world, and they all listen while we're in council and while we offer and make sure to remind that they do important work for us. Because depending on where you come from in the world, and I know there's lots of places, you have someone in your life that's a protector. And some people call that plans, some people just call it growing up. And I did the ceremony that I got this helper. So they helped us, and we're grateful, and we shouldn't forget about them.

And we should never, ever, ever forget to dream. Because dreaming has created all the most magnificent things in the world. And we have an opportunity in this moment in time to look differently at how we house people. And that we don't have to throw money at every agency that comes along. We can say here's how you can work together.

The biggest issue you have already mentioned will be to get the big cities, the Provincial and Territorial groups, and the Federal Government to agree. I will encourage at council, quite frankly, that they be very direct and say we don't care whether you agree or not. If you don't agree, don't take this program. Go on your own. And we'll see what certain provinces do. Because they line up for the money. And if they're going to line up for it, then it has to be different

than we have experienced.

So thank you for listening. And thank you very much for the input that you have provided us with.

>> VANESSA PAUL: Thank you, everyone. See you next time. Thank you for your participation.