

# Neha

## Neha Review Panel



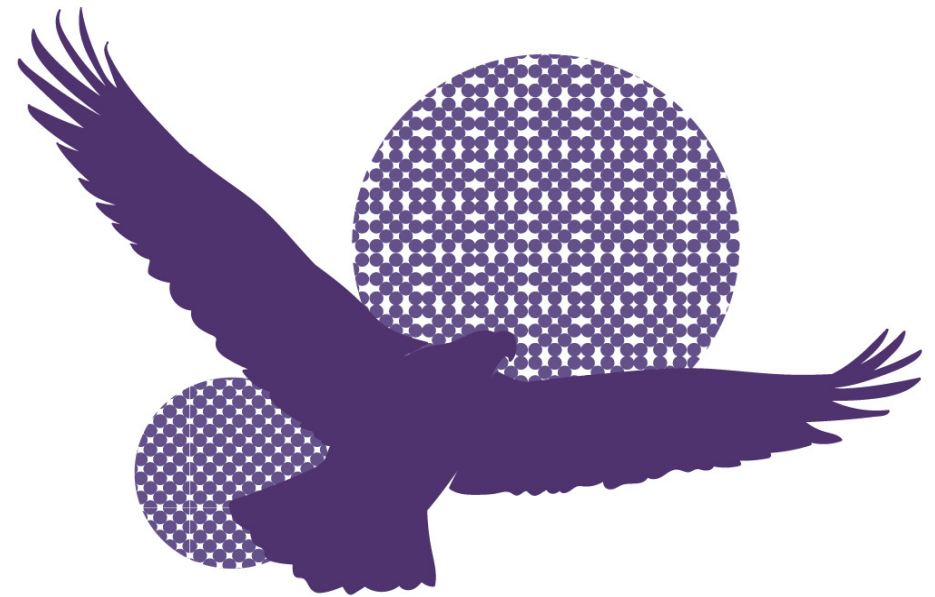
**The right to safe, adequate and affordable housing for women, Two Spirit, Trans, and gender-diverse people, and the government's duty to uphold this right.**

**Presentation by:**  
Sylvia Maracle, Chair, Neha review panel  
3 March 2026  
Canadian Network for Equity and Racial Justice

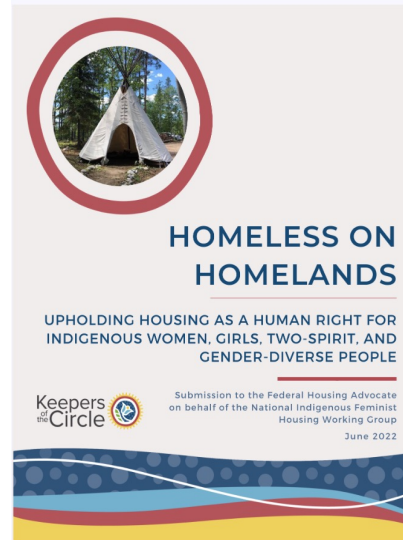
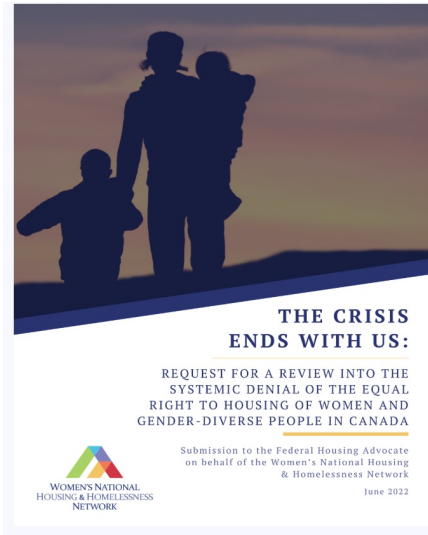


# Neha Housing is a Human Right

- Enshrined in National Housing Strategy Act & UNDRIP Act
- Adequate housing is:
  - Secure
  - Affordable
  - Accessible
  - In safe & healthy condition
  - Equipped with services like clean water
  - Located close to services, transit, and work
  - Culturally appropriate
- Governments must
  - Eliminate discrimination
  - Prioritize those in greatest need
  - Invest the maximum available resources
  - Use all their powers like legislation
  - Leave no one behind



# Neha What Neha Did



**June 2022: Human Rights Claims**  
National Indigenous Women's Housing Network (NIWHN) and the Women's National Housing & Homelessness Network (WNHHN) submit claims to the Federal Housing Advocate

## November 2024 to November 2025: Neha

- 250+ written submissions
- Oral dialogues with 250+ participants
- Submissions from federal departments
- Human rights analysis
- Recommendations to Minister



# Neha

## What Neha Heard

***"Inuit housing problems began when the nomadic ways of life were forced into permanent settlements in the 1950's. The Federal Government provided small and poorly built "match box houses" that were overcrowded, not insulated properly and did not suit northern arctic life."***

***"Those institutions are places where people can be forcibly put back in the closet because they are not safe to be out."***

***"My rent currently eats up 90% of my guaranteed income."***

***"If I could have had housing with my kids rather than them being taken away. With support, I could have raised my kids."***

***"As a queer person whose neighbors are gay as well, I feel safer."***

***"Those of us who are Black, Indigenous, racialized, disabled, 2SLGBTQIA+ persons, newcomers, gender-diverse, or multiply-marginalized suffer the most in the current housing market, but housing programs often do not reflect our needs or realities."***

***"We know what needs to be done. The issue is political will."***

***"For Indigenous women and gender diverse people, a home is not just shelter, but it's also our place on mother earth, our connection to all our relatives – the animals, the birds, the fish, the plants, the trees, the water and the beings in the water, as well as our ancestral family."***



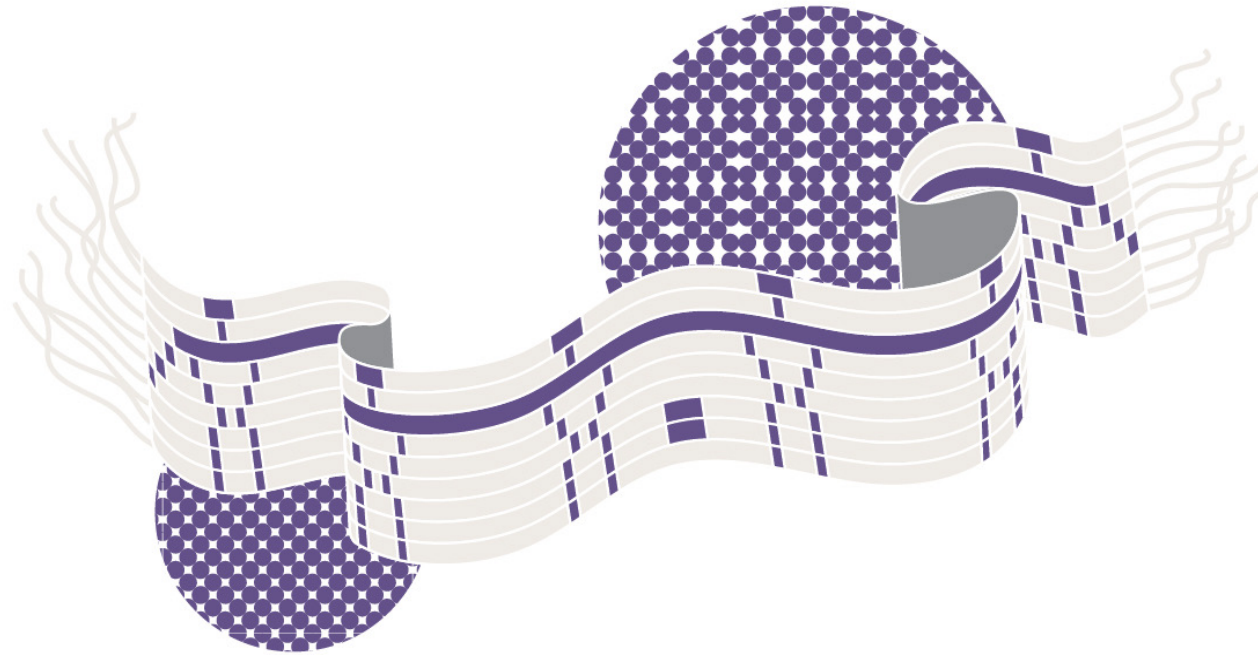
## **Conclusion: Canada is not meeting all the conditions required to realize the right to housing**

1. Women, Two Spirit, Trans and gender diverse people of all ages and backgrounds claim a **holistic right to housing**
2. The housing crisis for Indigenous women, Two Spirit, Trans, and gender diverse people is rooted in **colonialism**
3. Canada's **National Housing Strategy has not fulfilled the NHSA requirement** that it improve housing outcomes for women, Two Spirit, Trans, gender diverse people in greatest need
4. **Gendered and racialized income inequities** shut women, Two Spirit, Trans and gender diverse people out of safe, adequate housing
5. Federal policies and programs do not adequately address **intersecting, systemic barriers** for women, Two Spirit, Trans, and gender diverse people who are Indigenous, racialized, newcomers, and living with disabilities
6. Systemic gaps in the right to housing for women, Two Spirit, Trans, and gender diverse people contribute to **child apprehension, institutionalization, and criminalization**



1. **Transform Canada's colonial housing system** to uphold the right to housing for Indigenous peoples.
2. **Fund and equip community-led organizations** to house and support their members.
3. **Provide inclusive emergency and transitional supports** for diverse women, Two Spirit, Trans, and gender diverse people facing violence and homelessness, **while committing to permanent housing.**
4. **Fulfill the right to affordable housing and an adequate standard of living** for diverse women, Two Spirit, Trans, and gender diverse people.
5. **Establish human rights-based standards** across jurisdictions
6. **Reduce the use of costly institutional systems** by increasing access to safe, adequate, and affordable housing for women, Two Spirit, Trans, and gender diverse people across the life cycle.





**Neha reports:** <https://nhc-cn1.ca/publications/post/neha-review-panel-s-reports-on-the-right-to-safe-adequate-and-affordable-housing-for-women-two-spirit-trans-and-gender-diverse-people>

