



Affaires indiennes  
et du Nord Canada

Indian and Northern  
Affairs Canada

Sous-ministre  
adjoint principal

Senior Assistant  
Deputy Minister

Ottawa, Canada  
K1A 0H4

**FEB 18 2015**

Rev. Dr. Stephen C. Farris  
The Presbyterian Church in Canada  
50 Wynford Drive  
Toronto, ON M3C 1J7

Dear Rev. Dr. Farris:

Thank you for your letter of January 23, 2015, concerning Aboriginal housing in Canada. It is heartening to see such interest by members of the public in the housing needs of Aboriginal communities across the country.

The Government of Canada recognizes that access to safe and affordable housing is essential for improving economic and social outcomes and supporting healthy, sustainable First Nation communities.

The provision and management of housing on reserve lands is the responsibility of First Nations, with support from the Government of Canada. The Government of Canada allocates an annual investment to First Nations for on-reserve housing through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. As you noted in your letter, the Government of Canada has made significant housing investments, providing more than \$2.3 billion in support between 2006-2007 and 2013-2014.

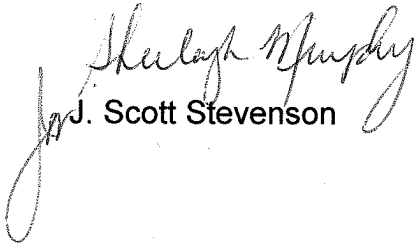
Off reserve, a variety of provincial, territorial and municipal programs and investments are available to support Aboriginal people in accessing housing, including Inuit populations in Canada's north. These are supplemented by the efforts of community groups and non-profit organizations like the Presbyterian Church in Canada, which play an important role in supporting transitional and affordable housing for Aboriginal peoples.

The Government of Canada is aware of the continuing housing challenges faced by Aboriginal peoples and remains dedicated to supporting healthy, safe and prosperous communities. My officials and I have been closely following the on-reserve housing study underway in the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples. We look forward to receiving the report and will work to address its recommendations.

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We will continue to collaborate closely with our partners and stakeholders over the coming years to address the spectrum of needs related to Aboriginal housing. Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

 J. Scott Stevenson