



Métis

Urban Housing Corporation

Statistics Canada 2021 Census in Brief Response

On September 21, 2022, [Statistics Canada released their Census in Brief – Housing conditions among First Nations people, Métis and Inuit in Canada](#) from the 2021 Census. The data was dismal, but not surprising.

Over one in six Indigenous people (17.1% or 309,345 people) Canada-wide live in crowded housing not considered suitable for the number of people who live there, according to the National Occupancy Standard. Amongst the non-Indigenous population, the rate is 9.4% (pp. 3-4).

Not only is the Indigenous population of Canada living at much higher rates of overcrowding, they are also almost three times more likely to live in a dwelling in need of major repairs (16.4%) than the non-Indigenous population (5.7%) in 2021 (pp. 3-4).

The gap narrowed marginally between the groups in both areas since 2016. However, as is apparent by the numbers, the gap is still far too large.

If we separate the Métis population from the broader Indigenous population nationwide, we find that approximately 1 in 12 Métis (7.9% or 49,565 people) live in crowded housing. Those living in metropolitan areas of 100,000 or more are more likely to live in crowded housing compared to those living outside of the large city. Métis are also less likely to be living in a dwelling in need of major repairs (10%) compared to the Indigenous population at large. While the numbers are better for the Métis population, there is still a long way to go to achieve parity with the non-Indigenous population within Canada. The Métis population within Alberta is in a slightly better position than many other areas of Canada – 7% of the population live in overcrowded dwellings and 9% live in a dwelling in need of major repairs (pp. 6-7).

A large reason for this is the tireless work being done by Métis Housing, as a ministry of the Métis Nation of Alberta, but there is far to go. At Métis Housing we recognize the disparity in housing for Métis and pan-Indigenous populations across the province in comparison to our non-Indigenous neighbours.

Over the past 40 years, we have been committed to housing our people. This year marks 40 years since Métis Urban Housing Corporation (MUHC) first opened its doors. Métis Capital Housing Corporation (MCHC) followed in 2007. Today, the two make up what we call Métis Housing. Collectively, MUHC and MCHC maintain and manage rental accommodations, providing housing to over 3,000 residents in 14 urban centres throughout Alberta.

This coming year we will continue adding to our rental inventory and providing suitable accommodations within a cultural framework for Métis citizens and other Indigenous and non-

Indigenous peoples within Alberta. We will also expand and continue to offer programs that address the many barriers facing our community's housing journey.

For more information, (Statistics Canada's Centre for Indigenous Statistics and Partnerships, 2021), please email info@metishousing.ca