

Hello,

I am pleased to respond to the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing and share information pertaining to housing conditions and social outcomes for First Nations and Inuit in Canada. I thank the Special Rapporteur to pay attention to housing conditions of Indigenous Peoples, which is a continued source of social and health inequities in Canada, and elsewhere.

With this email, I would like to share some of the outputs of the work that my collaborators and I have been leading over the past few years. Joining me on this email are Nancy Gros-Louis-McHugh and Marie-Jeanne Disant from the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC).

We are here sharing information of completed work, and work under way for which we are not yet able to send document. Some of the work will be completed over the summer and we may be able to follow-up with documents if it is not too late.

Please let me know if you would also like to receive grey literature/government reports on the housing conditions of Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

The table below list ongoing projects and documentation attached to this email. Except for the published articles (PDF documents), none of the information should be published on the website of the Special Rapporteur.

We are happy to be contacted should further information be required.

Sincerely

Mylene Riva

With Nancy Gros-Louis McHugh and Marie-Jeanne Disant, First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission

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Themes	Documents attached
Housing in First Nations Communities in Quebec, Canada. We will soon publish a report on the links between housing conditions of First Nations in Quebec with four major	2 documents describing housing conditions in First Nations communities in

<p>social outcomes: education, employment, food security and perceived control over one’s life, from an analysis of data from two large population surveys of First Nations children, youth and adults - the First Nations Regional Health Survey-RHS, and the Regional Education Survey, Employment and Early Childhood First Nations-EREE. Our analyzes show statistically significant relationships between housing conditions (overcrowding, state of housing) and children and youth academic success, employment among adults, food insecurity, and sense of control over one’s life. This study is conducted in collaboration between FNQLHSS and Mylene Riva. This project, funded by the Trottier Institute (for a description of the project, see https://mcgill.ca/tispp/research-public-policy/2017-2019-trottier-fellows), marks a milestone in the advancement of knowledge as well as in successful research collaborations that respect the principles of information governance of First Nations (see https://cerpe.uqam.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/2016/08/Profit-of-Research-of-First-Nations-in-Quebec-Labrador-2014.pdf).</p> <p>For more information, contact Nancy Gros-Louis McHugh and Marie-Jeanne Disant</p>	<p>Quebec (English and French versions)</p> <p>Full report from project likely available in the upcoming months, after presentation to First Nations Communities</p>
<p>Housing conditions and social outcomes among Indigenous Peoples living in large urban centers in Canada</p> <p>In relation to the previous project, this study examines housing conditions and social outcomes (employment, food security) for Indigenous Peoples living in large urban centers in Canada. Analyses are underway; we hope to finalize a scientific paper by the end of August.</p> <p>For more information, contact Mylene Riva</p>	
<p>Housing and health-related outcomes among Inuit</p> <p>Attached are a series of papers documenting associations between housing conditions (household size, overcrowding) and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) chronic stress b) mental health (2 papers) c) food security d) tuberculosis <p>See corresponding authors for more information on these studies.</p>	<p>See attached 5 papers</p>

<p>The health impacts of social housing construction in the Arctic</p> <p>This is an intervention research project assessing the health and well-being impacts of social housing construction in Nunavik and Nunavut. Three papers are at different stages of publications. Results demonstrated that in overcrowded dwellings, sense of home is compromised. Results of the before-and-after study show that, 15-18 months after rehousing, housing conditions and health outcomes (psychological distress, perceived stress in daily life, perceived control over one’s life, and asthma-related symptoms) are significantly improved. Contact Mylene Riva for more information.</p> <p>Abstract for three different papers are attached:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perreault, K., Dufresne, P., Riva, M., Fletcher, C., et al. Overcrowding and sense of home in the Canadian Arctic. Housing Studies. In Press. • Riva, M., Fletcher, C., Perreault, K., Dufresne, P. Moving to a new house in the Arctic: Significant improvements in psychosocial health for Inuit adults. Canadian Journal of Public Health. Revisions requested. • Riva, M., Perreault, K., Dufresne, P., Fletcher, C., et al. Social housing construction and improvements in housing conditions for Inuit in Northern Canada. Housing Studies. Revisions requested. 	<p>See attached word document with abstracts</p>
<p>Knowledge synthesis of housing and health studies</p> <p>We are completing a systematic literature review 55 studies quantitative association between housing and health for Indigenous Peoples in OECD counties, as well as a review of 31 qualitative studies exploring meanings attached to housing, and experiences of housing for Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>For more information, contact Mylene Riva.</p> <p>Abstract of the project: Housing and Indigenous peoples’ health: A knowledge synthesis of research and housing initiatives in support of practice, policy, and advocacy.</p> <p>Across Canada, investments in house construction in most Indigenous communities have never been adequate to the needs. The particular situation of Indigenous peoples regarding housing conditions is a well-recognized yet chronic source of health inequity. Among Indigenous populations, studies have documented epidemiological</p>	

associations between housing conditions and a range of physical and mental health problems, whereas others have addressed cultural identity and practices, control, and satisfaction in relation with the house environment. Given the relationship between sedentarization and housing provision in colonial policies, these cultural and psychosocial factors are likely to be important mechanisms linking housing conditions to health. This range of literature has yet to be examined collectively. Additionally, there is a need to identify housing interventions in order to develop and implement coherent and regionally pertinent housing plans and policies, to act on one of the most fundamental determinants of health. There is a diversity of housing interventions implemented in Indigenous communities; however, this knowledge is fragmentary and widely dispersed.

To provide knowledge users (KUs) involved in this proposal with the information required to make knowledgeable and workable decisions on housing and health issues in their regions, this Knowledge Synthesis (KS) will follow two objectives. The first is to assess the state of the evidence linking housing conditions to health and to identify knowledge gaps, by undertaking a systematic review of quantitative and qualitative studies examining housing conditions and Indigenous peoples' health and underlying mechanisms linking housing to health. A systematic review of studies published until March 2017 in peer-reviewed and grey literature will be conducted using cross-disciplinary bibliographic databases, online repositories of grey literature, and consultation with content experts. Study selection, quality appraisal, data extraction and data synthesis will be conducted independently by pairs of reviewers; the systematic review will adhere to the PRISMA guidelines. The second objective aims to assess the relevance and adaptability of housing interventions that could be implemented in KUs' regions, by developing a comprehensive inventory of social/behavioral and community-wide housing interventions implemented in Indigenous communities and which have the potential to improve health. Initiatives will be identified using a range of resources and a workshop will be organized with KUs to review and assess the interventions inventoried.

This integrated knowledge translation project was developed and will be implemented in partnership with KUs from Indigenous and non-Indigenous public health and housing organizations in Quebec and Nunavut. The KS will contribute importantly to the evidence to inform public health and housing policy, practice and interventions in First Nations and Inuit communities in these regions.

Outputs from this project will adopt multiple formats oriented toward diverse audiences, i.e. decision-makers, lay audiences, and academics. This KS was designed to directly respond to the need of KUs to fill knowledge gaps in housing and health associations among Indigenous populations, and to identify potential housing initiatives that could be adapted and implemented in their region to improve health.