

## HOUSING DEPARTMENT

The Housing Department entails the renting and maintaining of all M'Chigeeng rental units along with the CMHC units, assisting the members of our community with applications for housing, renovations and housing loans programs such as the M'Chigeeng Housing program (New Construction) and the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP).

Outlined are some of the key responsibilities of the housing department:

- To maintain an up-to-date priority list of applications for housing assistance;
- To gather and review information on new housing programs available; to assess their applicability to the housing needs of M'Chigeeng First Nation and to recommend the adoption of such programs;
- To carry out repairs and renovations in a cost-effective manner;
- To report regularly to the Chief and Council, Community Infrastructure Advisory Group or membership on the activities of the housing department;
- To provide counselling for tenants to assist them in understanding and assuming their housing responsibilities. This includes, but is not limited to, pre-occupancy counselling to all approved applicants to confirm tenant and Band responsibilities regarding the tenancy agreement, and ongoing home visits on topics such as financial counselling, arrears recovery and home maintenance.
- To provide workshops on Home Maintenance, Energy Efficiency, Budgeting and Understanding along with Client Counselling and Arrears Counselling.

In August of 2013, Chief & Council of M'Chigeeng approved the M'Chigeeng First Nation Tenant Management Policy. Housing is an essential service because it affects the health and well being of all M'Chigeeng First Nation members. The Tenant Rental Management Policy outlines the rules and regulations by which this service will be provided.

This policy is based on the principle that housing is a shared responsibility between the M'Chigeeng First Nation government and the tenants. All tenants are expected to contribute toward the cost of housing. Funds collected as rental payments will be used to protect the community's investment in band-owned housing and to maximize housing resources.

The objectives of the Tenant Rental Management policy are:

- 2.1. To respond to the demand and need for adequate rental housing services by prioritizing and allocating housing assistance in an equitable manner;
- 2.2. To protect and enhance the community's investment in housing;
- 2.3. To share the responsibility for housing between the M'Chigeeng First Nation government and the members;
- 2.4. To keep band members informed of the goals and priorities of community housing plans and their achievement, and to provide a means for members to appeal decisions which they feel may not have been made according to the Tenant Rental Management policy;
- 2.5. To protect and extend the life of existing housing through maintenance, insurance and renovation policies; and
- 2.6. To promote individual pride and responsibility for housing.

## **RENTAL COLLECTIONS / ARREARS MANAGEMENT**

We have an Interac machine at the Administration Office for Band members to pay their respective rent and user fees. Tenants are now able to make their rental payments via online banking. Please come to the Housing Department for more information.

**ANYONE THAT MAY BE IN ARREARS WITH M'CHIGEENG FIRST NATION WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR ANY TYPE OF ASSISTANCE. (INCLUDES ALL PAYABLE SERVICES PROVIDED BY MFN, NOT JUST RENT)**

## **ELDERS ASSISTANCE**

M'Chigeeng First Nation has seniors/elders housing renovations grants available to elders 65 years or older. Some eligible repairs are health related, fire & safety, electrical, plumbing to name a few. For more information contact the Housing Department.