



**United Way
Centraide
Canada**

Is There A Serious Gap in Affordable, Supportive Housing Needs for Aboriginal Seniors?

United Way's goal, a goal shared by Gignul Non Profit Housing Corporation, is to enable vulnerable seniors to remain living in their homes and engaged in their community. In April of this year the United Way announced the approval of funds to support research to determine the needs for supportive and affordable housing for seniors in the Champlain LHIN Region. It has long been assumed that Aboriginal seniors are among the most underserved of their age group in accessing supportive services. Research is required in order to examine this issue more closely to determine the need and nature of services that are required, along with the location and model for affordable housing. This effort will help to establish a more formal, coordinated linkage between affordable housing and supportive service providers, ultimately leading to improved access and living conditions for Aboriginal seniors residing in the district.

This project is hosted by the Aboriginal Youth Non Profit Housing Corp. and will be completed by Gignul Non Profit Housing Corp. It is endorsed by the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition which consists of most major Aboriginal service providers in the city of Ottawa. The project will be guided by a steering committee made up of community partners including: Odawa Friendship Centre, Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health, TI Family Health Team and the local chapter of the Metis Nation of Ontario.

The report will be informed by a literature review, key informant interviews, Aboriginal senior focus groups, and a community needs survey that considers location and nature of acceptable models of seniors affordable housing, along with a menu of current and future supported services.

The project will officially commence on August 8, 2012 and will extend until the end of the calendar year. I'm counting on all Aboriginal seniors 50 years old and over to lend support to this important research which will be used to build a business case to help Gignul and its service partners to ensure that seniors are provided the services they dearly need in this stage of the life cycle. I invite to join with us and to get involved in making this research project successful.

Thank you for your interest!

J. Lanigan, President GNPHC