



Prince Albert Grand Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PAGC Announces Plans to Build a New Shelter for Women and Girls

Treaty 5, 6, 8 & 10 Territory. Prince Albert Grand Council today announced its plans to build a new emergency safe shelter for women and girls experiencing and fleeing violence and domestic abuse.

PAGC plans on building the shelter in Montreal Lake Cree Nation to support Indigenous women and children through funding support of \$4.39 million from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)'s Shelter Enhancement Program. Indigenous Services Canada will also provide \$856,000 per year for the first 5 years to support operational costs. The 10-room/25 bed facility will include a primary health care clinical space, family rooms, a cultural group counselling room, and multi-purpose room for youth and children.

“We are pleased to move forward on this initiative, thanks to the funding support of Canada. Every time women and her children are forced out of their homes because of domestic violence, our communities lose out on valued members, knowledge, skills, and life potential. This new initiative will provide a ‘home away from home’ for women that will include cultural-based shelter programming and services with strong community and Elder supported healing as part of our collective efforts to eradicate domestic violence,” said PAGC Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte.

PAGC Women’s Commission will serve as an oversight body of representatives for the shelter.

“There is a demand for safe shelters in northern Saskatchewan. Our Indigenous women face higher levels of poverty, unemployment, violence, and illness than other females in the general population, and there’s a need for strengths-based supports and services to women and girls who need mental, spiritual, and emotional supports for themselves and their children,” said PAGC Women’s Commission Chair Shirley Henderson.

Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2022, and it is expected to be completed within 12 months in the spring of 2023.

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