



ULNOOWEG
EDUCATION CENTRE

Ulnooweg Education Centre



Ulnooweg Financial (Education Centre) (UEC) is a registered charity established in 2013; among other goals, it has a mandate to promote

- [1] financial governance literacy assistance; and
- [2] research to advance the economic participation of Atlantic First Nations.**

To date our primary focus has been to deliver our Community Financial Review (CFR) to interested Indigenous communities.

Its purposes of the CFR are to promote:

- Chief and Council's understanding of their own government's finances, manage debt and try to help communities avoid financial difficulty
- Research to advance the economic participation of Atlantic Indigenous communities

We have completed CFR's for 21 communities over the past 12 years, in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, and B.C. We have also produced a review for one Friendship Centre.

The data we have collected over the years has given us the opportunity to begin the research noted as # 2 in the goals.

Community Financial Review Process

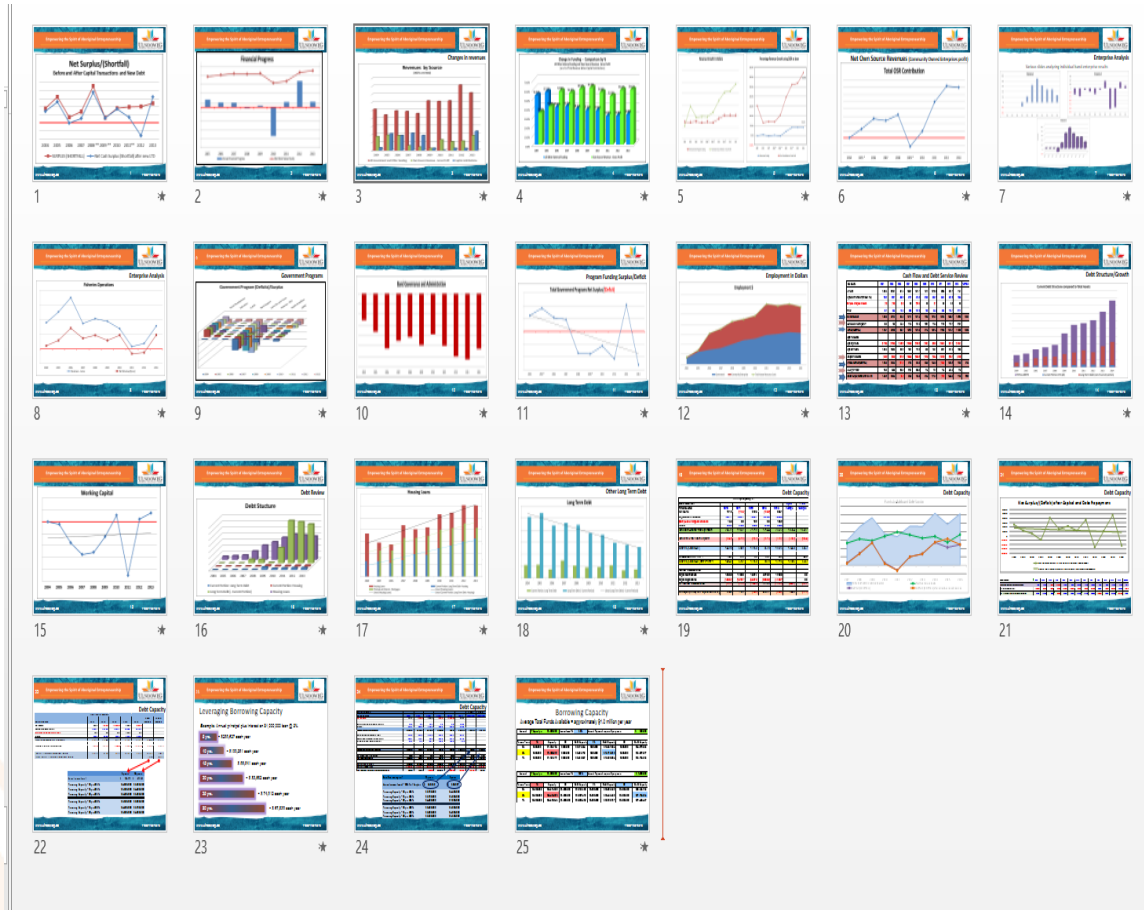


The Community Financial Review Process is a process that provides community leaders with a comprehensive, iterative, and historical review of in-depth financial information. It is a two step process that repeats and grows from year to year.



Turn this:

Into this:



Community Financial Review – A COMPLIMENTARY TOOL



EXISTING

- First Nation Government Audits are designed to confirm that funding was spent throughout the various programs and economic entities.
- AFOA offers a financial management literacy curriculum and certification program for financial and non-financial managers - a valuable and much needed service focused on the audited financial statements and the needs of financial managers.
- FNFMB sets standards for financial management systems using: Financial Administration Law Standards and Approval, Financial Management System Standards and Certification, Financial Performance Standards and certification.
- ISC sets reporting standards in response to government administration requirements.

COMMUNITY FINANCIAL REVIEW PROCESS

- Has been designed specifically to instruct leaders about their community and their financial planning and decision making.
- Researches the communities' financial data based on their specific needs and assists the Chief and Council as a group in interpreting the data for actual decisions in real time.
- Assists Chief and Council in using the financial information effectively.
- Enhances the value of this reporting by recasting the information in ways that are relevant to the immediate decision-making needs of Chief and Council.

YÄNONHCHIA'

(On-Reserve) Housing Finance Network

Housing Systems Diagnostic Instrument Project

First phase:

Development of the Housing Systems Diagnostic



Phase 1 addresses:

1. design and testing of the housing finance diagnostic instrument in 3 communities in Atlantic Canada;
2. preliminary design of the systems diagnostic instrument;
3. testing the process for discussion with Chief, councils and staff;
4. exploring fellowship options with Foundations or innovation support programs to engage Indigenous students with an interest in housing to assist with research and implementation in subsequent phases.

Objective:

Developing and securing community support for locally relevant alternatives to underperforming or unsustainable housing systems, policies and finance in First Nations requires a solid body of hard evidence generally not available to local decision makers. First Nations Community financial statements which are designed for the needs of funding agencies and reflect a multitude of different programs and responsibility centres, do not provide housing finance information in a way that can guide this dialogue. Information on community housing systems, needs, incentives and practices, when available, is rarely integrated with financial data in a way that makes sustainability, trends, and options visible. This project is designed to address this need.

First phase: Development of the Housing Systems Diagnostic



Proposed Solution

The project aims to develop, test, and document an approach to assist First Nation leaders to better understand and improve community housing systems on the basis of hard evidence. The approach involves:

- (1) the collection of multi-year financial and state of housing systems data from the community
- (2) the analytical display of the collected data in simple graphs that illustrate trends and provide guidance for policy decisions and
- (3) an interactive dialogue process with community leaders and administrators

First phase: Development of the Housing Systems Diagnostic



The Instrument and the Process

The instrument will focus on two main areas: financial and systems data.

Financial data will address First Nation government housing and infrastructure data including:

- a) assets
- b) liabilities
- c) revenue
- d) operating expenses
- e) maintenance and repair – including major renovations expense
- f) capital expenditures
- g) financing
- h) debt service

This analysis will be completed for all direct and indirect housing activity, recast to provide clear trends over time.

Systems data will include:

- a) an inventory of housing units on the ground, of needs for repair, replacement or new homes given population growth,
- b) identification of different categories and drivers of demand, including the need for purpose-built housing solutions,
- c) documentation of current housing and lot servicing costs,
- d) an overview of land and property regimes, policies, incentives and mix of public and personal responsibility that apply to housing,
- e) housing finance mechanisms used by the First Nation and/or its members with the constraints and conditions attached to them,
- f) documentation needed to address community concerns over potential changes to housing regimes (e.g. resistance to private land ownership) as these surface.

These are in several program areas, capital, rent revenue – CMHC Housing, etc.

Identify which regime is currently in use. Including the community's policies for housing.

First phase: Development of the Housing Systems Diagnostic



Statement of work

1. Select 3 communities in Atlantic Canada to pilot the instrument
2. Preliminary design of financial and systems diagnostic working questionnaires
3. Exploration of available data sources on:
 - i. housing-related income, expenditures, debt, guarantees, inventories;
 - ii. current housing inventory, needs, costs, and demographic & other drivers of demand
 - iii. other aspects of housing systems
4. Analysis of reliability and validity of data
5. Construction of a database of relevant housing financial data over 5 years per community
6. Development of graphs and presentation format for discussion of results with community
7. Presentation of results of financial diagnostic report to Chief and Councils
8. Community interviews with Chief and Council, elders and other community members to guide housing systems diagnostic design
9. Consultations with NACCA, ABSCAN and housing systems experts to guide housing systems diagnostic design
10. Exploring options to engage college or university level Indigenous students with an interest in housing to assist with research and implementation in phase 2
11. Detailed proposal and budget for phase 2

Questions

