

drinking water must be monitored very carefully. The community is trying to get a sewage system. It is argued by the community that the sewage system should be covered under the 1986 relocation agreement, and is trying to secure funding for that purpose. They have not been able to access funds through the Green Plan. There is not enough money available through annual DIAND budget allocations for infrastructure development. A study by the James Bay Energy Corporation estimated that a sewage system would cost \$12 million in the village itself. Another estimate, taking expansion into account, suggests a cost of \$21 million. (*Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence*, Issue No. 28A:2-8)

“When they originally relocated, they said those units were good for seven years .. the (sewage tank system) worked for the period it was supposed to work. . . So why did they put it in the first place, unless they were planning to relocate us again after seven years?” (Mr. Tom Wadden, Treasurer, Chisasibi Band Council, *Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence*, Issue No. 28A:8)

OFF-RESERVE HOUSING: RURAL AND URBAN HOUSING

“Everybody admits that the Native housing in this country is an absolute disgrace. Tremendous strides have been made in 20 years. . . But the fact of the matter is that new family formations have outstripped the total number of units that have been either built or rehabilitated in the past two decades.” (Mr. Gene Rheume, Native Council of Canada, *Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence*, Issue No. 16:6)

CMHC data⁶ indicates that 24,070 Native households living off-reserve in Canada are in core housing need (35.2% of the Aboriginal population) and 10,255 live in rural areas where the incidence of native rural core need was 44.2% (compared to 14% of all rural households in Canada in core housing need).

Waiting lists for housing from First Nations non-profit housing corporations and housing co-operatives in urban areas are sizable.

Gignul, meaning “our home” in the Micmac language, is a 138 unit non-profit housing corporation located in Ottawa which houses over 400 aboriginal people who are single parents, families, singles, students, couples, senior citizens, and the disabled. Gignul representatives described a state of declining allocations and rising demand for housing.

“At the present time Gignul has a total allocation of 138 units over a six-year period, a figure that has been rapidly declining when compared to the number of applications that we have on file. Our unit allocation shows a decline in the six-year operation as follows: In 1986 we received 29 units; in 1987 we received 29 units; in 1988 we received 32 units; in 1989 the unit allocation was 17; in 1990 we received 15 units, and in 1991 we received 16 units.” (*Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence*, Issue No 27:7)

Gignul received an initial allocation of four units for 1992.

“Our current application waiting list is more than double the number of units Gignul presently owns. Under the terms of this year’s allocation, Gignul is able to respond to only 1% of the aboriginal people who currently have applications on file.” (*Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence*, Issue No 27:7)

“There are a large number of aboriginal people across the river in Hull, Aylmer, and Gatineau that we can’t even deal with because they’re outside the Ottawa-Carleton region. There’s no housing corporation over there, there’s nothing for those people to try to apply to.” (*Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence*, Issue No 27:7)

In Sioux Lookout in Northern Ontario, Nitawin Housing Development Corporation Manager Tony Kay told the Committee of a waiting list currently comprising 230 families and shrinking annual unit allocations from CMHC.