



Manitoba Tipi Mitawa Inc.

Frequently Asked Questions

How is this program funded? What will it cost?

Manitoba Tipi Mitawa Inc. is funded in several ways. The Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation and the Government of Canada will provide \$504,000 to subsidize mortgage payments and down payment assistance.

The Manitoba Real Estate Association (MREA) applied for and received \$63,000 from interest earned on the Manitoba Broker's Trust Account. This will be used to supply a 5 per cent down payment for homes in Phase 2 of the program.

Who qualifies and who decides who qualifies? Where do people apply?

The general criteria for buying a home will be the same criteria used for anyone wanting to buy a home. Manitoba Tipi Mitawa Inc. will look at applicants' income, work history and existing debt. The successful applicant must be a member of a Manitoba First Nation, a first-time homebuyer and will have been employed full time for the past two years. An Advisory Group made up of representatives from the Manitoba Real Estate Association and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs will recommend applicants to the Board of Directors for final approval. AMC and MREA have equal representation on the committees.

Application information is available from both the Manitoba Real Estate Association: 204-772-0405 (toll free 1-800-267-6019) or the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs: 204-956-0610 (toll free 1-888-324-5483). Information is also available on the Manitoba Real Estate Association website at www.realestatemanitoba.com and on the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs website at www.manitobachiefs.com

What barriers do First Nations people face when they want to buy a home?

In many instances First Nations people do not have the support mechanisms (i.e. money, equity, credit history or parental support) for a down payment required to purchase a home. In addition property ownership is a foreign concept for most First Nations people where the cultural philosophy regarding land is based on communal ownership. Like many first-time homebuyers, First Nations citizens often lack the basic knowledge required to purchase a home. This program will offer training in how to take care of a home and potentially an opportunity to train as real estate agent in the future.

Why is this program necessary when there are other homeownership programs available?

Off-reserve housing is a growing problem in urban centres across Canada. The size of the First Nations component within Manitoba urban centres, and in particular Winnipeg, called for a unique, sustainable, one-stop program where people could get help with down payments, mortgage subsidies and basic information on how to buy a home. The plan strives to convert existing rental subsidies into mortgage subsidies to break the cycle of poverty and in turn frees up rental accommodations for others to move into.