

Volume 1  
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Fall 2021



AT HOME IN  
THE NORTH

Newsletter

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## Message from AHIN’s Program Director

Hello AHIN participants and partners,

I hope you all had good summers, with time away from work to enjoy family, friends and activities on the land.

After the summer break, we are excited to get back into the work we are doing with At Home in the North. At the same time, it’s been a very long haul so far with the pandemic, and the fourth wave has already had a significant impact on many of our partner communities. The role that chronic housing need continues to play in exacerbating the spread and severity of Covid-19 in northern communities is clear, and as a Partnership we have a tremendous responsibility to ensure that the connections between health and housing in the North are not ignored. Through research and outreach, we have dedicated efforts to underlining these connections, but in the coming months we will be looking to do more in terms of collaborative research and advocacy.

The fourth wave of the pandemic also means that we are still not in the position we would like to be in terms of opportunities for travel and face-to-face activities. With this in mind, and after the success of the webinar series thus far, we will be continuing with our online knowledge exchange program in this academic year, with a series of webinars already planned or in development for 2021-2022. We are also planning a mini-series of online workshops aimed at facilitating cross-Partnership collaboration and synthesis across the Research Directions. Stay tuned for details on these workshops in the next few months.

Finally, we will be launching a Visual Storytelling initiative as part of the knowledge gathering activities within At Home in the North, the aim of which is to gather the experiences and perspectives of northern community members on housing in their communities using accessible and familiar visual tools. Please stay tuned for more on that project as well.

As we settle into the fall, the Research Directions will be meeting again to plan their activities for the coming academic year. I am excited to see how we can bridge the work taking place in each of the Research Directions to develop collaborative tools for priority areas like community-led housing needs assessments, homelessness enumeration strategies that encompass the northern context, and understanding the unique housing spectrum in the North.

Thank you for reading, and I look forward to our continued work together in 2021-2022!

**Program Director- Julia Christensen**  
Canada Research Chair (II) in Northern Governance and Public Policy  
Associate Professor  
Department of Geography  
Memorial University  
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*“Our work continues to be aligned closely with other partners in the Canadian Housing Research Network, and we continue to work closely with Community Housing Canada to share learnings on the supportive and community housing sectors.”*

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## Research Direction updates

### **RD1: Supportive housing, programs and services**

The Supportive Housing Programs and Services Research Direction is actively at work on a number of projects. These projects include: the inventory of supportive housing programs and services, case studies of innovative supportive housing programs in the North, and investigating the impact of COVID – 19 on supportive housing programs. Our work continues to be aligned closely with other partners in the Canadian Housing Research Network, and we continue to work closely with Community Housing Canada to share learnings on the supportive and community housing sectors. Finally, we were sad to see postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Travis Hay, leave the team and congratulate him on the next steps in his career. We were delighted to welcome Masters of Health Sciences student Ashley Wilkinson as coordinator for our team and look forward to working with her over the next many months.

**RD1 Co-lead- Rebecca Schiff**

E: [rschiff@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:rschiff@lakeheadu.ca)

### **RD2: Governance, self-determination and policy**

The Governance, Self-Determination and Policy group is developing a survey that will produce an inventory of community-led housing approaches from across northern Canada, Alaska and Greenland. The survey tool has been drafted and possible considerations regarding the implementation and roll-out of the survey are currently under discussion. The inventory will highlight opportunities and barriers of access to community-led housing initiatives, as well as specific groups within northern communities who are underserved by current community-led housing models. We will also be contributing to knowledge integration and synthesis projects that draw together expertise from all of the At Home in the North research directions, beginning with a review of Housing Needs Assessment tools and indicators. This project will build on past efforts by AHIN partners, and others, and will aim to design a tool that can be shared and adapted for use within northern regions and northern communities across Canada.

**RD2 Co-lead- Julia Christensen**

E: [jchristensen@mun.ca](mailto:jchristensen@mun.ca)

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*“Case studies will examine not only the design of final projects, but the processes, programs and funding which lead to their completion. Learnings from case studies will be disseminated through the project network to support better design practice and policy change for Canada’s northern housing.”*

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### **RD3: Housing, community design and the built environment**

The Housing, Community Design and the Built Environment group is moving forward with developing case studies to identify and inventory contextually-relevant, and innovative northern community design and housing construction projects. We have finalized the case study template, and are now beginning to collect data on what is being built in Canada’s North. Case studies are being developed through a search of publicly available information and interviews with local housing professionals as identified through the project partners network. Preliminary areas of focus are the Territories, Northern Ontario and Northern British Columbia. Housing professionals are being engaged to share their experience with construction projects, and to learn about local housing design, its contextual relevance and any adaptations that have been made. Case studies will examine not only the design of final projects, but the processes, programs and funding which lead to their completion. Learnings from case studies will be disseminated through the project network to support better design practice and policy change for Canada’s northern housing.

**RD3 Co-lead- Shelagh McCartney**  
E: [shelagh.mccartney@ryerson.ca](mailto:shelagh.mccartney@ryerson.ca)

### **RD4: Health synthesis stream**

Over the past year, the Health Synthesis Stream has used data collected by the CIHR-funded knowledge synthesis on housing and health, to complete a regional analysis of outcomes from Northern Canada, Alaska and Greenland. We have also begun a comparative analysis of housing programs for Indigenous elders, and plan to contribute to future knowledge synthesis and integration projects spanning all four AHIN research directions, including a review of Housing Needs Assessment tools and indicators.

**RD3 Co-lead- Mylène Riva**  
E: [mylene.riva@mcgill.ca](mailto:mylene.riva@mcgill.ca)

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*“These projects have created opportunities to discuss exactly how AHIN can direct resources and energy toward answering questions most valuable to northern communities.”*

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## **Online knowledge exchange**

At Home in the North benefits from a large network of talented community-based organizations, service providers, and researchers. In Fall 2021 we began two new projects to facilitate the exchange of expertise across this network and to ensure that our work is progressing housing agendas most important to northern communities.

Our webinar series began as an effort to maintain a consistent flow of communication about research and community needs across AHIN during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has continued to be a platform for Members to share project updates and generate important discussions about northern housing, pandemic responses, and research gaps. We have featured speakers from universities and organizations across Alaska, Canada, and Greenland to discuss their work, including several new projects funded by AHIN which look specifically at the impact of COVID-19 on northern housing and homelessness.

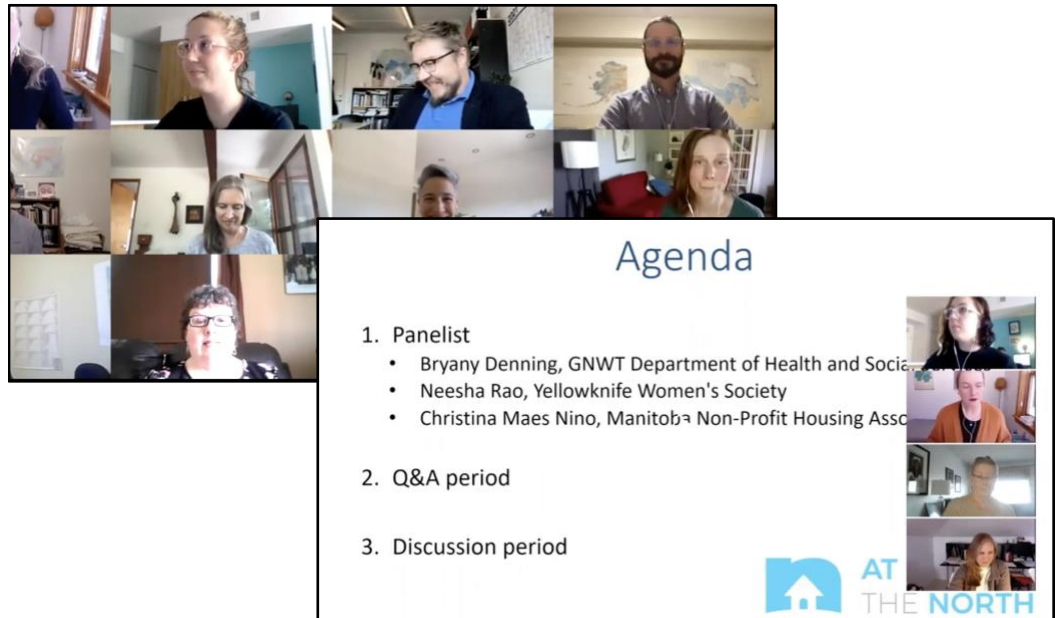
Another facet of our knowledge exchange has been monthly community profiles, published on the AHIN website ([www.athomeinthenorth.org](http://www.athomeinthenorth.org)) and Twitter (@athomenorth). These profiles feature community partners within the AHIN network discussing the strengths, challenges, and opportunities for housing and homelessness in their respective regions and how their organizations are meeting those challenges with new and exciting projects. We have featured individuals and organizations from northern Manitoba, northern Ontario, Labrador, NWT, and Nunavut.

These projects have created opportunities to discuss exactly how AHIN can direct resources and energy toward answering questions most valuable to northern communities. Most recently, these engagements have led to an exciting new visual storytelling project which will feature multimedia stories about housing and homelessness across the North. It is currently in the early stages of planning, and more details will come when available.

If you are interested in being featured in one of our community profiles, have ideas for future webinar topics, or have questions about any of these projects, please contact Miranda.

**Knowledge Exchange Coordinator- Miranda Monosky**

E. [mnmonosky@mun.ca](mailto:mnmonosky@mun.ca)



**Agenda**

1. Panelist
  - Bryanya Denning, GNWT Department of Health and Social Services
  - Neesha Rao, Yellowknife Women's Society
  - Christina Maes Nino, Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association
2. Q&A period
3. Discussion period

**AT THE NORTH**

## News Items

### At Home in the North is seeking a Postdoctoral Fellow

Applications are due November 1, 2021 and will be reviewed until the position is filled. For details on the position, see our website: <https://athomeinthenorth.org/ahin-is-hiring-a-postdoctoral-fellow/>

### AHIN Webinar: Pandemic subproject update, October 26, 2021

AHIN will be hosting its first fall webinar of 2021 on October 26<sup>th</sup> from 11:00-12:00PM EST. The webinar will feature a presentation from Colin Bonnycastle (University of Manitoba), who will be providing an update on the AHIN Pandemic sub-project titled "Housing and COVID-19 in Thompson." This presentation will be followed by a guided discussion by Julia Christensen. Zoom connections details have been sent by email with a link to join the webinar reprinted here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82135748679?pwd=d1FkUW5ORFBQZ1Zld3FQakhRS2dPdZ09>

### Call for student presenters

AHIN's Online Knowledge Coordinator, Miranda Monosky is seeking student and postdoc researchers from within the AHIN network to present at our next fall webinar (date TBA). If you are a graduate student or postdoc conducting research in the area of northern housing and homelessness, we would love to feature your work! You will be asked to give a short (approx. 10-15 minutes) presentation over Zoom to the Partnership, and participate in a Q&A period. You do not have to be nearing the end of your research - proposals and preliminary results are welcome.

Please forward this invitation to students and postdocs within your research groups, and notify Miranda ([mnmonosky@mun.ca](mailto:mnmonosky@mun.ca)) of their interest by **Friday, October 15.**

### **RD3 Seeking the assistance of project partners to connect with housing professionals in Canada's north**

The Housing, Community Design and the Built Environment group is seeking the assistance of project partners to connect with housing professionals in Canada's north. Project partners with connections to local housing leaders in Canada's north, or information on northern housing projects are called to support the group's case study research. If you are interested in facilitating connections, sharing materials, or have any questions, please contact: [hillary.dextrase@ryerson.ca](mailto:hillary.dextrase@ryerson.ca).

### **Understanding COVID-19 Impact on Housing Hardship among LGBTQIA2S+ Yukoners**

Queer Yukon is looking for an academic partner and a paid student researcher for a one-year research project looking at LGBTQIA2S+ Yukoners' experiences with housing across the territory. For more information about the project, or to apply for either of these positions, please contact [mona@monaluxion.ca](mailto:mona@monaluxion.ca) or check out the full description [here](#).

**Communities across the N.W.T. are taking the housing crisis into their own hands.** CBC news. Interview with At Home in the North's Arthur Tobac. April 30, 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/community-solutions-nwt-housing-crisis-series-1.6008122>

**The cost to fix N.W.T.'s housing crisis has just doubled. Experts tell us what should come next.** Interview with At Home in the North's Julia Christensen. CBC news. April 28, 2021. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/nwt-housing-deficit-crisis-series-1.6005463>

**Pandemic spending and housing insecurity.** Interview with At Home in the North's Rebecca Schiff. CBC Radio 1: Cross Country Checkup. October 3. <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/checkup/can-canada-afford-all-the-pandemic-relief-spending-1.5747641>

## **Publications**

Bezgrebelna, M., McKenzie, K., Wells, S., Ravindran, A., Kral, M., Christensen, J., Stergiopoulos, V., Gaetz, S., Kidd, S.A. 2021. **Climate Change, Weather, Housing Precarity, and Homelessness: A Systematic Review of Reviews.** *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 18,5812. <https://t.co/tUqLuGD00P?amp=1>

Christensen J., Schiff R., McCartney S., Riva M., Rao, N. and Goldhar C. 2021. **At Home in the North.** Indigenous Caucus of the Canadian Housing Renewal Association. April 27, 2021.

Cooper, S., Hajer, J., Plaut S. 2020. **Assisting renters: Manitoba's rent assist in the context of Canada's National Housing Strategy.** <https://athomeinthenorth.org/pubs/assisting-renters-manitobas-rent-assist-in-the-context-of-canadas-national-housing-strategy/>

Goldhar, C., Frenette, A., Fraser, C., Christensen, J. 2021. **Return to normal travel and research may bring hazards to northern Indigenous communities.** The Conversation. July 8, 2021. <https://theconversation.com/return-to-normal-travel-and-research-may-bring-hazards-to-northern-indigenous-communities-163240>

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Kauppi, C and Schiff, R. 2021. **How Are Indigenous Women's Experiences of Policing and Homelessness Linked to MMIWG?** Submitted to Hankard, M. & Dillen, J. (eds.). *Red Dresses on Bare Trees: Stories and Reflections on Indigenous Murdered and Missing Women and Girls*. Vernon, BC: J. Charlton Publishing, Ltd.

Schiff R. 2021. **Homelessness and COVID – 19 research**. Panel: COVID – 19 Research. St Joseph's Care Group Showcase of Health Research. February 11 2021.

Schiff R. 2021. **More than a Roof - Finding home post-pandemic through community housing**. Panel: Housing Post Pandemic. Simon Fraser University – Pandemonium series. January 26 2021.

Schiff R. 2020. **Rural and Remote Homelessness in the Context of COVID – 19**. Webinar presentation for the National Alliance to End Rural and Remote Homelessness. November 3, 2020

van den Scott, Lisa-Jo K. 2020. **Temporal Front and Back Stages: Time Work as Resistance** in *Time Work: Studies in Temporal Agency*. Michael G. Flaherty, ed. Berghahn Books. Pp. 83-102.