**March 10th, 2021 Webinar: Creating sustainable post-COVID strategies for northern housing**

This meeting built off the February 10th webinar, which featured panelists and attendees discussing the impacts felt by communities and service providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. This webinar focused on answering the following questions:

1. What are the key lessons we have learned from COVID-19 in terms of creating action around northern homelessness and housing insecurity?
2. How can we use this partnership to advocate for sustainable, long-term strategies beyond the pandemic (in both the short- and long-term)?

Key discussion points:

Pandemic adaptations: In addition to the above questions, it will also be important to learn about how communities have adapted to COVID-19 at the local level. How have small and remote communities faced this emergency? What can we learn from them? How can we document these adaptation? How can we make sure those adaptations continue to exist post-pandemic? To the last question, it will be essential that AHIN advocates for the continuation of COVID-19 relief funding that went towards supporting community housing solutions.

Research directions: One possible avenue for research would be to look at a small number of northern communities of different regions and sizes to produce a “snapshot” of how they have adapted to COVID-19, what the gaps were/are, and what is needed to ensure those supports survive after the pandemic. This would not necessarily be representative of all northern communities but could provide a good foundation for understanding local pandemic adaptations and the kind of advocacy that will be needed. Additionally, it would be great to hear updates from the COVID-specific projects that received funding through AHIN in 2020.

Positive changes from COVID-19: During the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been growing relationships between public health and housing agencies that was not seen during previous pandemics (like H1N1). This is an area that has developed positively and is a relationship that needs to continue to grow so that individuals with housing needs receive better services.

Visual storytelling: Using Photovoice or creating video clips of our meetings and interviews with people in communities could help AHIN learn about the initiatives and innovations happening across the North. One suggestion was to hire research assistants to film short videos with community members (service providers and/or people experiencing homelessness) to facilitate an exchange of information about local adaptations. This could be turned into a YouTube series. This approach is good for building knowledge and experiences between different people in different places, especially while travel is restricted.