Homeless in a homeland: emerging themes from Inuvik fieldwork

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Outline

Background

Relevance

Project design

Housing (in)security and homelessness: emerging themes

Moving forward: what the people say and next steps
Primary objective

To understand how housing insecurity relates to homelessness; and, in turn, how this relationship is affected by economic growth.
Background

- Homelessness as shifting vulnerability
- Defining ‘hidden’ and ‘absolute’
Background

Recent history of settlement; housing

Critical government role in housing provision

Chronic housing shortage

Economic growth since 1990s

Migration, urbanization
Relevance

Northern context unexplored - Housing (In)Security Framework

Rising ‘absolute’ and ‘hidden’ homelessness

Decrease in social funding

Further growth anticipated - ensuring everyone benefits
Project design

2007: Consultation and proposal development

2008: Main fieldwork phase

- *In-depth interviews*
- *Focus groups*
- *Housing (in)security workshops*

2009: Community feedback workshops
Personal safety

Cultural connections

Education

Financial stability and employment

Strong social networks

Self-worth and self-awareness

Health and wellbeing

Housing Security
Violence

Trauma

Addictions

Housing policies

Inaffordability

Housing shortage

Insecurity

Poor housing quality
Housing Insecurity

- Inaffordability
- Housing shortage
- Housing policies
What the people say: concerns regarding a ‘boom’

- Impact on addictions
- Capacity to take advantage of opportunities
- Influx of migrants from the South
- Housing affordability
- Urbanization
What the people say:

promoting housing security

- Focus on healing
- Housing first - shelter as a basic human need
- Strong foundations - promoting independence and self-determination
Moving forward: next steps

- Finish fieldwork
- Preliminary data analysis
- Community feedback workshops in 2009
- Further analysis
- Write thesis and community reports
Thank you! Mahsi cho! Quyanainni!

The wonderful people of Inuvik!

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