Omamoo Wango Gamik: Creating a Home for Indigenous Youth During a Global Pandemic

A CBRCanada Live Discussion

On March 24, 2022, CBRCanada members participated in a live discussion to dialogue about Indigenous-led and decolonizing approaches to youth housing and community-based research during the pandemic. The discussion was led by Omamoo Wango Gamik, a project by Niginan Housing Ventures, led by Carola Cunningham and Cynthia Puddu. Facilitators Cynthia Puddu, Cheyenne Greyeyes, Celina Vipond, and Jillian Ames co-led the conversation. This summary highlights participants' reflections during the live discussion.

A decolonized approach to housing recognizes the importance of...

- People-first
- Culture and Ceremony
- Community Care
- Holism
- Lived Experience

The Road Ahead

During the live discussion, participants explored the following questions: "Why is a decolonized approach to housing important?" and "What are the challenges of doing Indigenous-led research in colonial institutions, during COVID-19?" Here are some suggestions for moving forward, as discussed by participants.

Funding for Indigenous-led community housing efforts

Western housing models tend to emphasize independent versus communal and intergenerational living. Decolonizing housing models involves re-directing funding to Indigenous-led, community-supported housing models.

Learning from Indigenous communities

Decolonization requires ongoing listening and learning from Indigenous communities. Settler allies must continuously decolonize their minds, relationships, and ways of working in both research and housing systems.

For more information on Omamoo Wango Gamik, an Indigenous-led housing initiative discussed in the March 17 webinar, visit Niginan Housing Ventures website.

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omegahousing.com