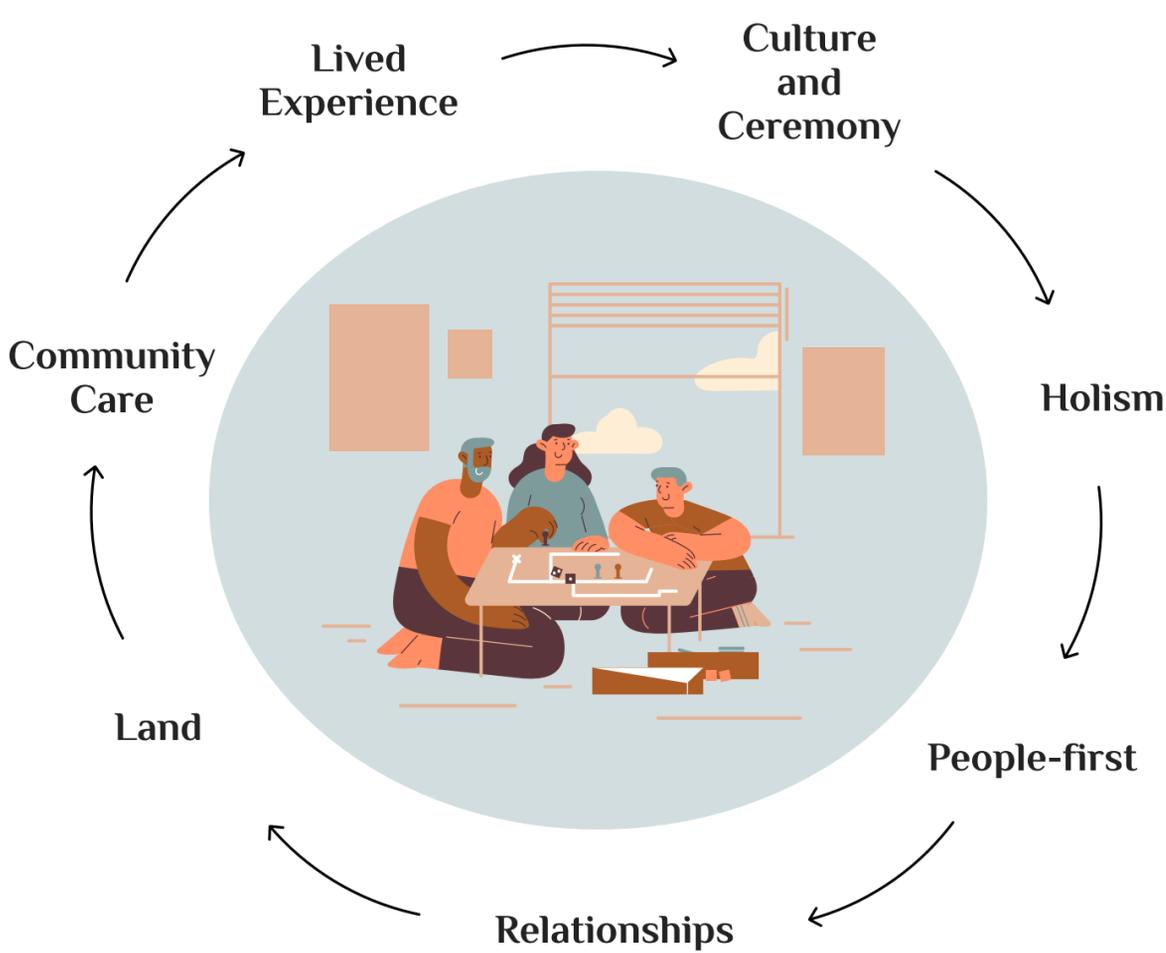


Omamoo Wango Gamik: Creating a Home for Indigenous Youth During a Global Pandemic

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 live discussion was a follow-up to the March 17 webinar, 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...



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.



Building trusting relationships

Damaging colonial legacies continue to impact Indigenous communities' access to culturally-safe and supportive housing models. Indigenous communities may be wary of accessing housing services, or participating in research, increasing the need for solid, trusting relationships amongst all.



Funding for Indigenous-led community housing efforts

Western housing models tend to emphasize independent versus communal and intergenerational living. Decolonizing housing 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 in housing systems.



Challenging one-size-fits-all policies

Western housing policies follow a one-size-fits-all approach that does not allow for diverse ways of living, being and knowing. Housing programs need to be re-designed to ensure that they align with Indigenous values.



Centering land: re-defining home

Western paradigms define homelessness as the absence of a physical structure. For many Indigenous communities, housing is simply a commodity, whereas the community and the land are home.

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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