



June 29th, 2026

To Ishkoday Members and First Nation Community Housing Managers,

We want to bring to your attention to an important and time-sensitive opportunity that could significantly reduce heating costs and improve resident comfort while taking advantage of federal funding.

The Government of Canada's **Oil to Heat Pump Affordability (OHPA) Program** provides funding to eligible households to replace expensive oil heating with high-efficiency electric heat pumps. For those living grid-connected on reserve in Ontario, the program is **100% free** (up to \$10,000) and eligibility is **automatic**. Participating households save an average of approximately **\$1,377 per year** on energy costs while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

This opportunity is especially relevant for First Nations housing providers, housing co-operatives, and non-profit housing organizations that continue to manage homes heated with oil.

One important point that is often misunderstood is that the OHPA program **does not** require the existing oil furnace to be removed. In many installations, the oil furnace can remain in place as a backup heating system for extremely cold weather or emergencies, providing added reliability and peace of mind. The program *does* allow the cost of oil tank removal to be covered if removal is chosen or required, but removal is **not** a federal program requirement. Provincial regulations and insurance requirements should always be confirmed before installation. Funding also covers conversion of other oil-fueled appliances to electric (for example, boiler or water heater).

The program is **approaching its end**. However, you still have some time to participate. The contact for those in postal code N is socialhousing@thigroup.ca. For those in postal codes L, M, or P, the contact is kenny.nguyen@clearesult.com, 226-748-4415. For those in postal code K, the contact is aaron.nunes@envirocentre.ca.

Current federal timelines are:

July 31, 2026: Last day to apply to the program.

January 31, 2027 – Deadline to submit all required documentation.

March 31, 2027 – Program closes.

Qualified contractors are becoming increasingly busy as these deadlines approach. Planning now means you will be in a much better position to secure funding and complete installations before the program ends.

I encourage you to identify any homes currently heated by oil and determine whether residents or housing units may qualify. Multiple homes can be registered under one funding agreement via a community-scale application. Housing management bodies and other representatives can apply for funding via this approach (i.e. no BCR required). An energy audit will be required on the home. You may also wish to visit Ishkoday.ca and explore the Boodawewin app to identify additional energy programs that community members may qualify for.

This program represents more than an equipment upgrade. It is an opportunity to lower operating costs, improve housing quality, increase year-round comfort with the addition of air conditioning, reduce emissions, and help households better manage rising energy costs.

We ask that this opportunity be reviewed as soon as possible so eligible homes and community members are not left behind before the application deadline. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to improving the quality and sustainability of housing in our communities.

Yours truly,



Jessica Nadjiwon

Ishkoday/ONWAA Executive Director



Richard Carriero

Ishkoday Energy Champion