

INDIGENOUS HOMELESSNESS: Beyond Awareness

Developed & delivered by Kim Kakakaway

Training Description:

Indigenous peoples continue to be disproportionately impacted by houselessness/homelessness, housing insecurity, and involvement with service systems across Canada. These realities cannot be understood—or effectively addressed—without examining the historical and ongoing impacts of colonization and how services themselves can unintentionally cause harm. This Indigenous-led, two-day training goes far beyond Indigenous Awareness or cultural competency. It is deep, relational, and practice-focused—designed for organizations, systems, service providers, and communities who want to move from knowing to doing, and from intention to accountability. While Indigenous homelessness and housing systems are a central focus, the learning applies to any sector working alongside Indigenous peoples, including health, mental health, child and family services, justice, education, government, and community organizations. Through storytelling, sharing circles, reflection, facilitated dialogue, and hands-on activities, participants engage in meaningful learning that translates directly into real-world service delivery.

****Content/Trigger Warning: Training consists of content materials, visuals and discussion of residential schools, historical and ongoing traumas.***

Training Details

Participants: Maximum 30 Participants.

Length of Training: 2 days (approx. 8 hrs/day) **attendees must attend both days to receive certificate.*

Open to participants of all backgrounds and roles. Leadership attendance alongside frontline staff is encouraged to support shared understanding and systems-level change.

What Participants will Learn:

- Name how colonization and policy continue to live on in today's realities
- Question why systems designed to help often fail the people they are meant to serve
- Shift from theory to action in culturally safe, relational, Indigenous-informed practice
- Understand that relationship, connection, and cultural safety are foundational—not optional
- Disrupt how power, privilege, roles, and organizational structures influence outcomes
- Know what it truly means to “walk alongside” Indigenous people in respectful, accountable ways

For Host Community Organizers – Elder / Knowledge Keeper Involvement

Where possible, we ask the host communities to invite a local Elder or Knowledge Keeper to participate in the full training. Elders are instrumental in our communities, offering cultural grounding, wisdom, and care—especially as we move through meaningful and sometimes heavy discussions.

The Elder's role may include opening the training (in the way they choose), offering support to participants throughout the two days, and opening and/or closing sharing circles.

We understand that each community has its own relationships and protocols. Hosts are encouraged to follow local protocol, ensure the Elder is aware of the training content and potential triggers, and provide an appropriate honorarium directly. If you are not connected to a local Elder or would like guidance around protocol, we are happy to support you in that process. Once confirmed, the facilitator will connect with the Elder prior to the training and will offer tobacco in person at the time of the session.

Ongoing Support

Learning does not end after two days. Ongoing support and consultation is available to help embed the training into day-to-day practice and broader systems change, including follow-up sessions, leadership coaching, and guided implementation conversations.

Training Facilitator – Bio:

Kim Kakakaway is a proud Cree and Saulteaux First Nations iskwêw from Treaty Six in Saskatchewan, Canada. She currently resides in Treaty Seven (Calgary, AB), which has been 'home' for many years. Kim has over 15 years of experience working with and for youth, young adults and Indigenous communities across North America, and has been an advocate for social justice and change. She continues to educate and advocate for equality and inclusion of Indigenous values and practices within organizations and oppressive systems.



Kim is the *Indigenous Training and Relations Consultant* with A Way Home Canada, where she conducts training, provides program support and brings in an Indigenous lens to the work within. She is passionate about empowering those around her and is always up for a laugh and good humor!

If you are interested to learn more, or want to book the Indigenous Homelessness Training, please contact Kim Kakakaway - kkakakaway@awayhome.ca