

News Release

National American Indian Housing Council



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NAIHC Commemorates Native American Heritage Month, Honors Indian Housing Leaders on Website, Highlights Housing Need

Washington DC—November 14, 2006—As the Nation celebrates Native American Heritage Month this November, the **National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC)** seeks to honor past and present Native American housing leaders and highlight the great need and future goals in Indian housing.

“Housing in Indian Country is improved only through the commitment and hard work of many individuals,” said **NAIHC Chair Marty Shuravloff**. “During Native American Heritage Month, **NAIHC** is recognizing the contributions of those whose careers distinguish them as Indian housing leaders.”

The first honoree was the late **Ron Froman**, former Chief of the Peoria Tribe (Oklahoma) and co-founder of **NAIHC**. Each week in November, **NAIHC**’s website, www.naihc.net, will be updated with the biographies and photos of great Indian housing leaders such as **Froman**. In addition, visitors will be able to get the latest facts through an updated Indian Housing fact sheet, which includes information from the new report *Housing and Economic Development in Indian Country*, published by the Fannie Mae Foundation. **NAIHC** contributed to the report, which shows:

- **14 percent** of homes on reservations have no access to electricity;
- **73 percent** of tribal water treatment facilities are considered inadequate;
- **20 percent** of Indian housing units in Indian Country lack telephone service; and
- **66 percent** of reservation roads are unpaved.

The study notes that while economic and housing conditions in rural areas are often substandard compared to the rest of the country, Native Americans in tribal areas are often far worse off than the rest of rural America.

Ask the Experts Forum Coming Soon

NAIHC will also conduct an “Ask the Experts” forum for the media on **November 29, 2006**. Available **NAIHC** experts are scheduled to include **Shuravloff**, Acting Executive Director **Dennis Daniels** (formerly of HUD’s Office of Native American Programs), Field Service Director **Luke Toyebo** and Office of Governmental Affairs Director **Wendy Helgemo**.

The forum will be conducted via conference call, and news media are welcome to participate. Further details will be released at a later date. For media questions, please contact Kim Hayes, (202) 454-0931.

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NAIHC assists tribes and tribal housing entities in reaching their self-determined goals of providing culturally relevant, decent, safe, sanitary, and quality affordable housing for Native people in Indian communities and Alaska Native villages.
NAIHC... “A Tradition of Native American Housing” www.naihc.net