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Reconciliation Requires Housing: The Role of Housing in Enhancing Access to Higher Education for Indigenous Learners

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Housing is well established as an important social-economic factor in health and well-being. In the realm of higher education, researchers have consistently demonstrated access to student housing positively influences the experiences and completion rates of post secondary learners. However, little is know about the student housing experiences of Indigenous learners.

Western University, like most Canadian universities, have launched numerous initiatives in response to the Truth and Reconciliation of Canada's "94 Calls to Action". Demonstrable change is happening in the classrooms across campuses from coast to coast to coast. However, the relationship between student housing and academic success for Indigenous learners has not yet been a part of these "reconciliation" initiatives. This community-driven case study of student housing experiences of Indigenous learners at Western University articulate why reconciliation at Canadian universities requires housing.

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