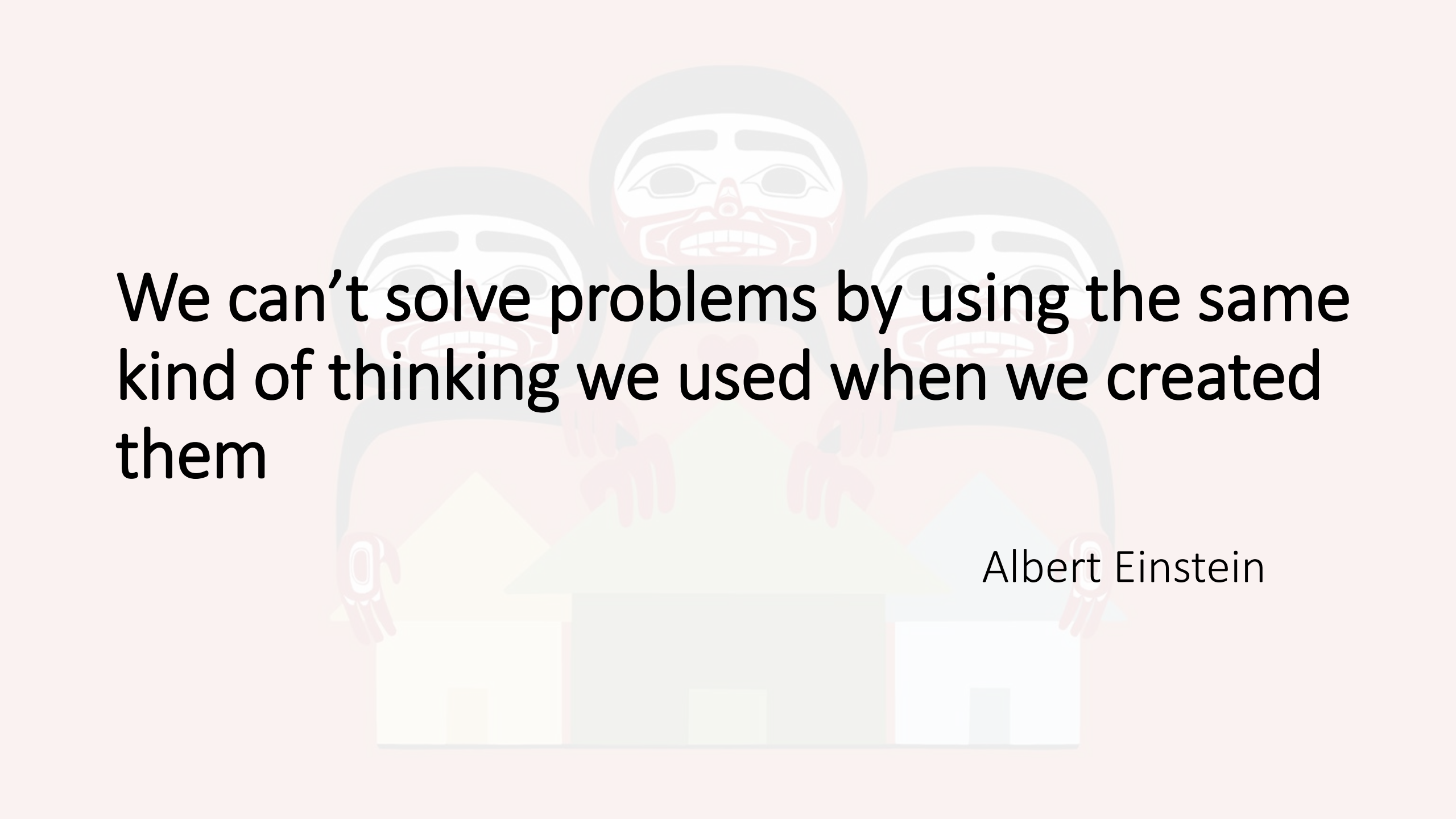


The background features a stylized illustration of three Indigenous figures, likely representing the Kwakwaka'wakw, standing behind three simple houses. The figures are depicted with traditional Indigenous features and are holding the houses. The houses are colored yellow, green, and blue. The overall style is clean and modern.

# BC Indigenous Homelessness Strategy

Aboriginal Housing Management Association

November 2022



We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them

Albert Einstein

# Agenda

- What We Did
- What We Heard from engagement
- The BC Indigenous Homelessness Strategy
- What's Next

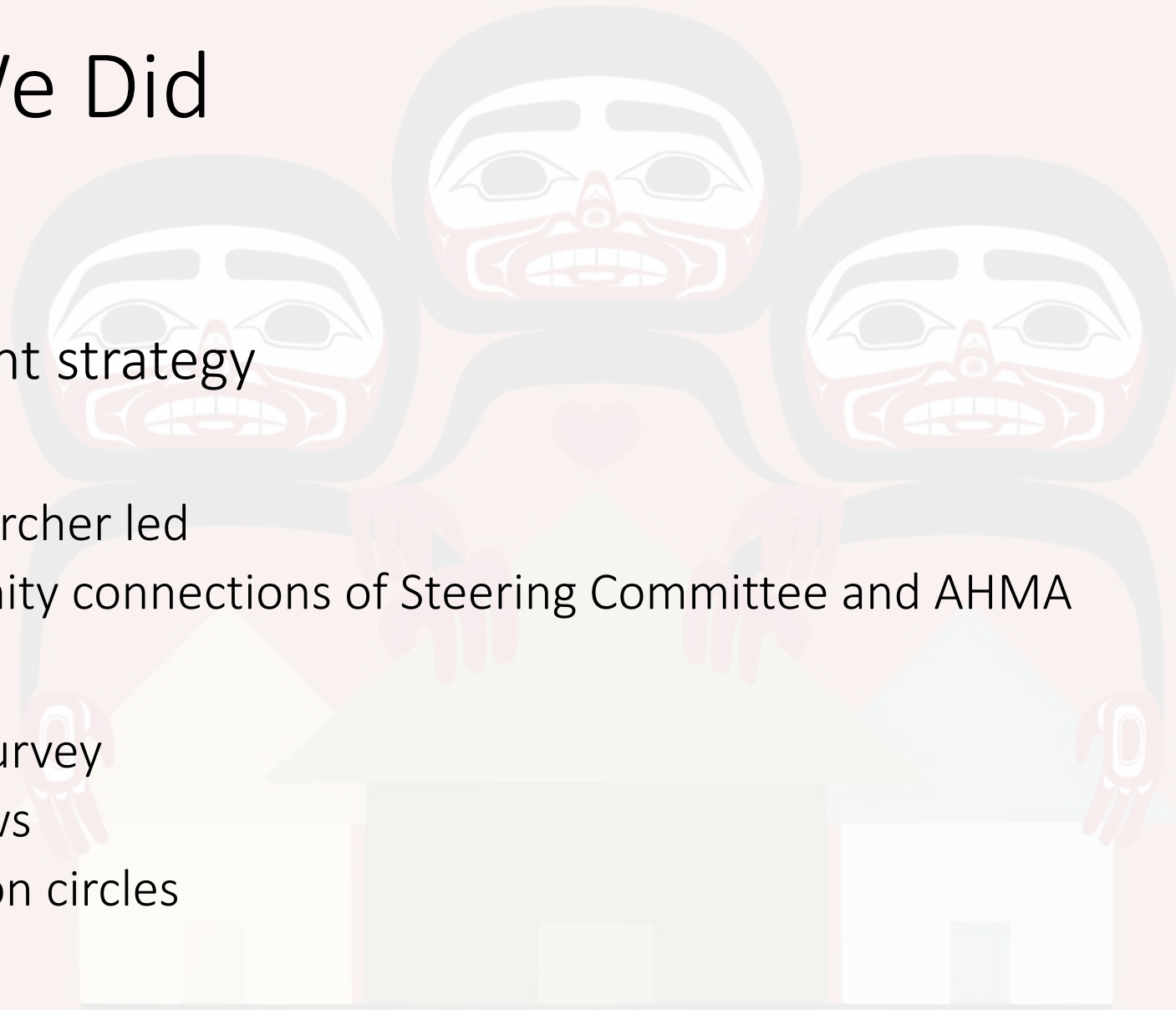




# What We Did

# What We Did

- Approach
- Engagement strategy
- Promotion
  - Co-researcher led
  - Community connections of Steering Committee and AHMA
- Activities
  - Online survey
  - Interviews
  - Discussion circles

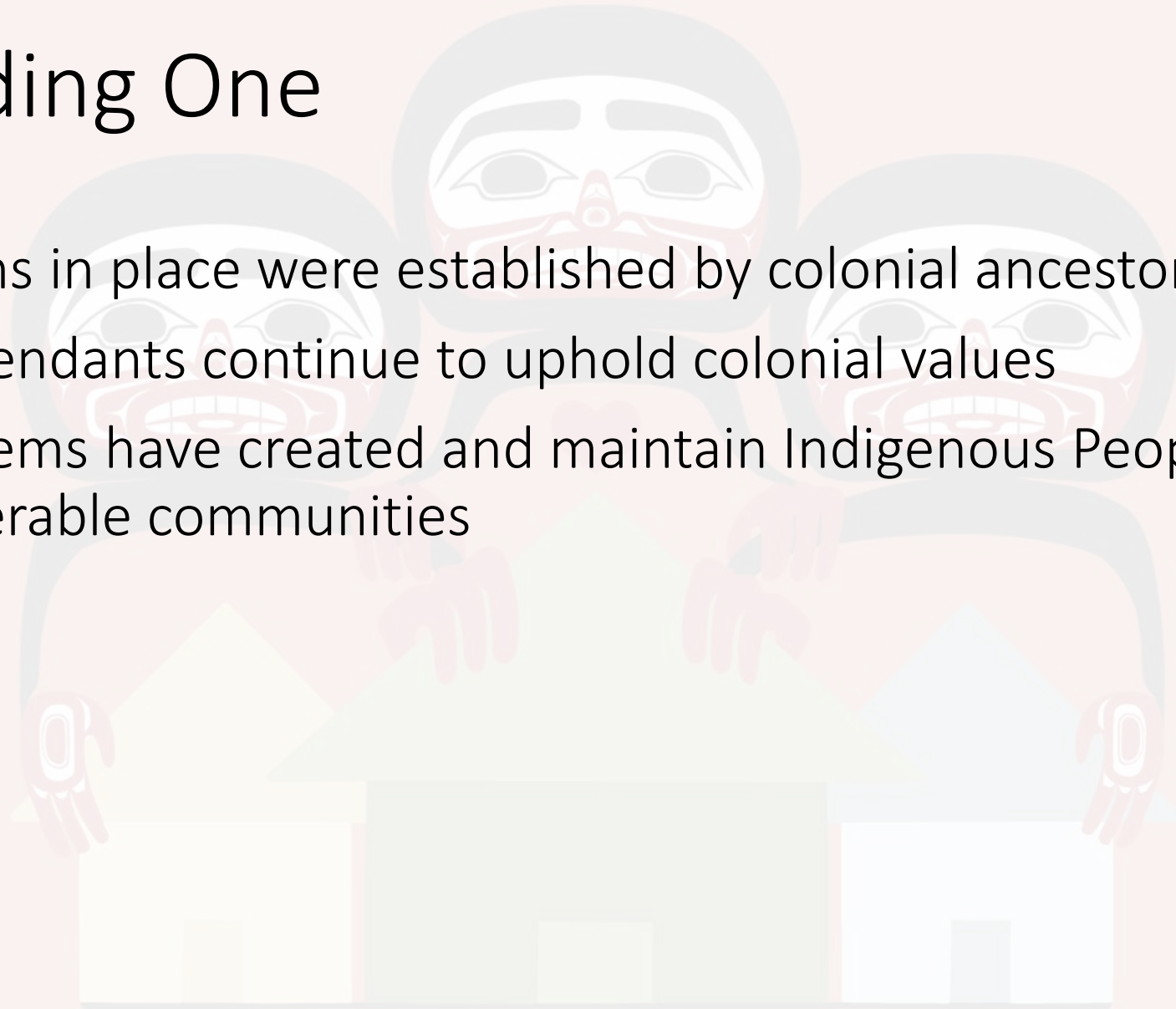


The background features a stylized illustration of three figures with large, expressive faces and beards, rendered in a light, semi-transparent style. They are holding up a house with a heart above it. The word "Storytelling" is written in a large, bold, black font across the center of the image.

# Storytelling

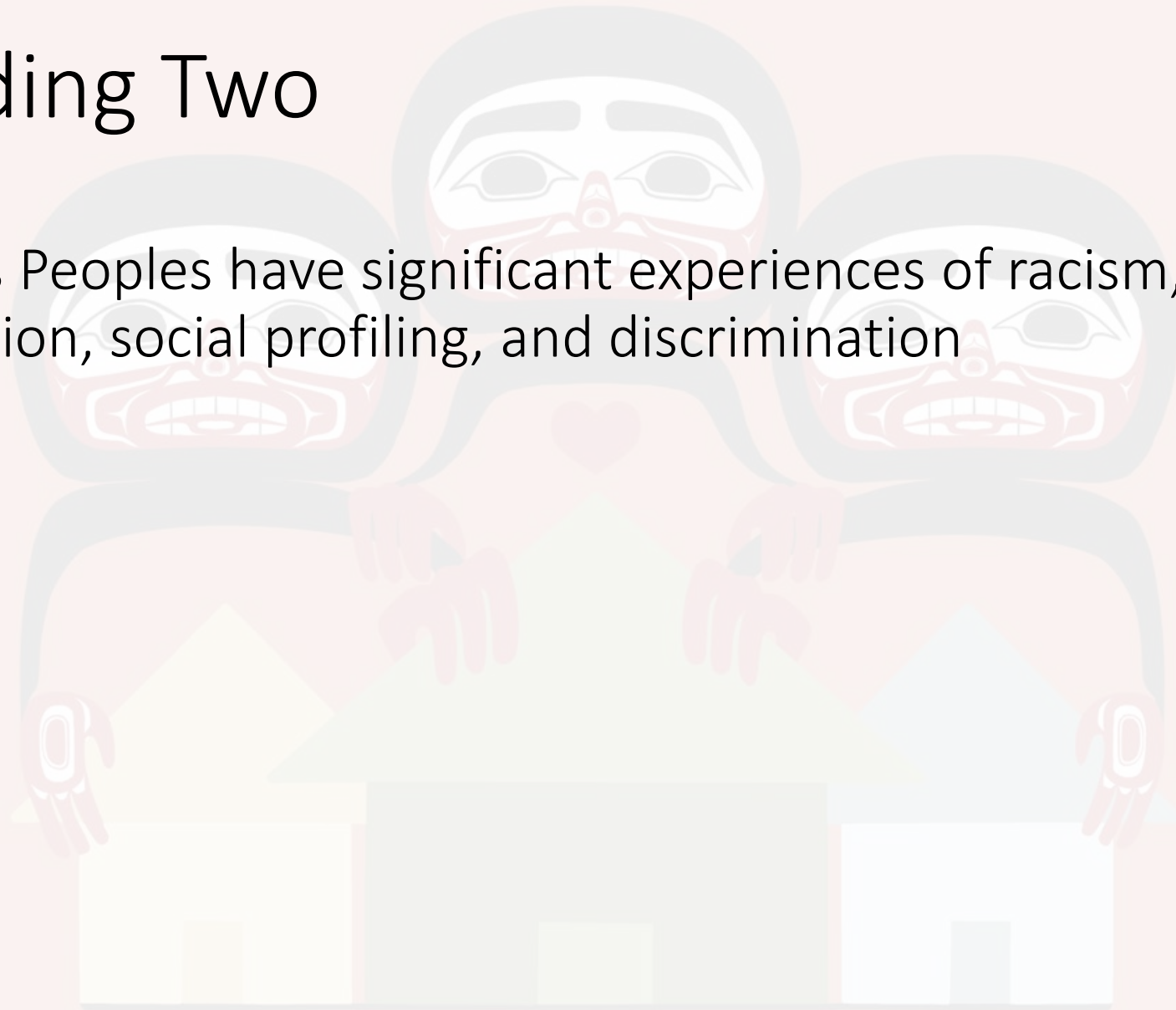
# Key Finding One

- The systems in place were established by colonial ancestors
- Their descendants continue to uphold colonial values
- These systems have created and maintain Indigenous Peoples as our most vulnerable communities



# Key Finding Two

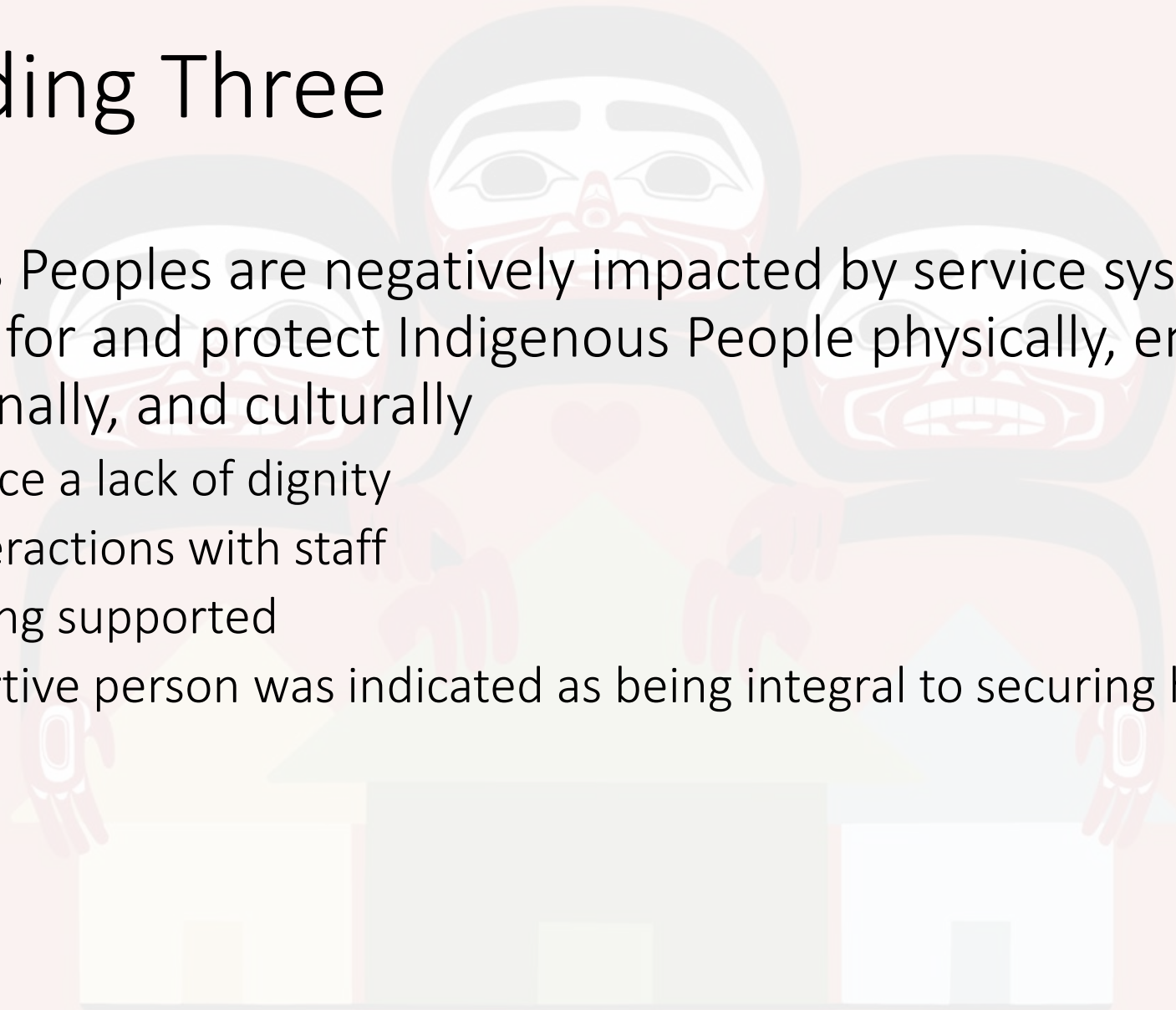
- Indigenous Peoples have significant experiences of racism, stigmatization, social profiling, and discrimination





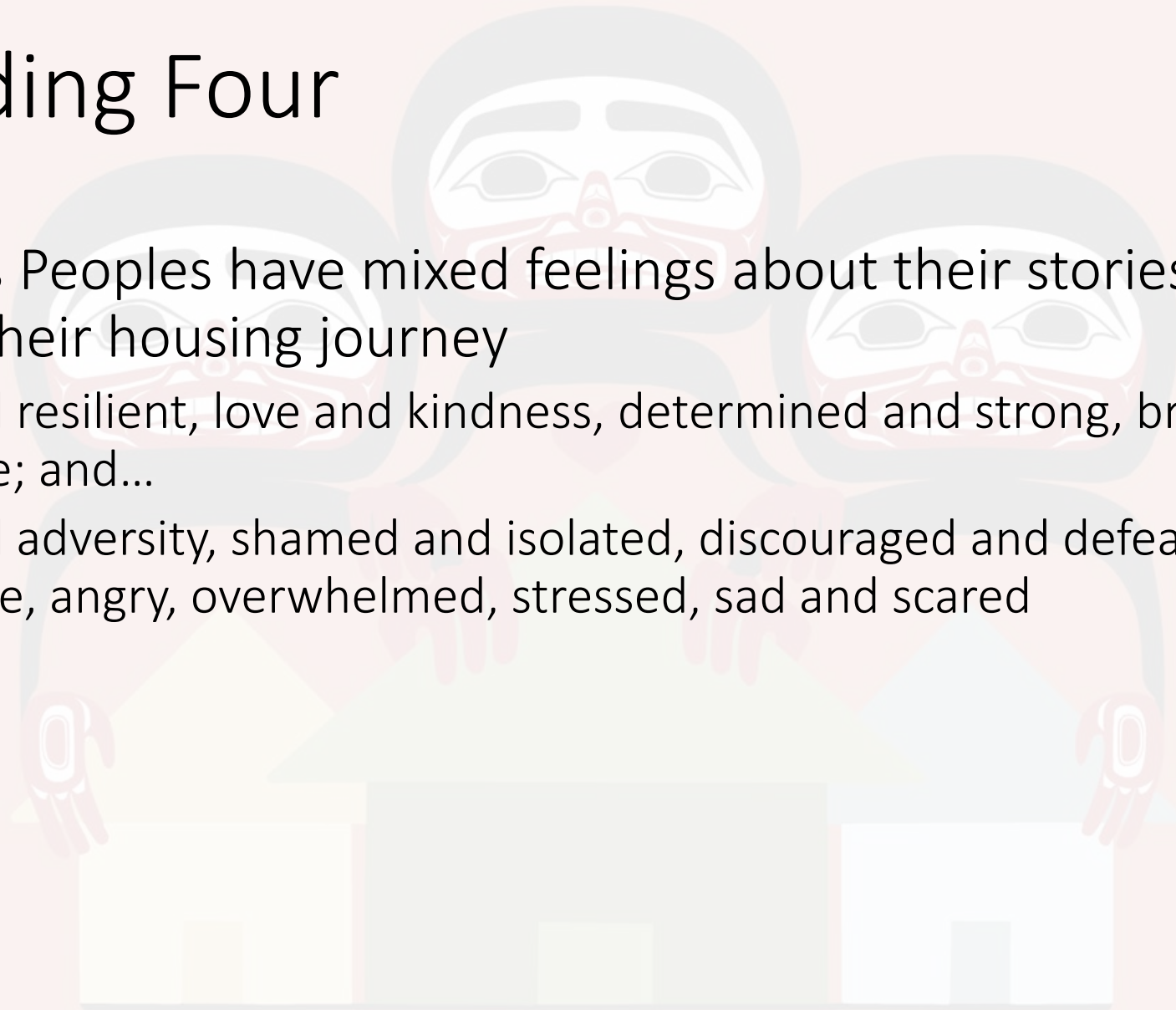
# Key Finding Three

- Indigenous Peoples are negatively impacted by service systems that fail to care for and protect Indigenous People physically, emotionally, intersectionally, and culturally
  - Experience a lack of dignity
  - Poor interactions with staff
  - Not feeling supported
  - A supportive person was indicated as being integral to securing housing



# Key Finding Four

- Indigenous Peoples have mixed feelings about their stories when it comes to their housing journey
  - They feel resilient, love and kindness, determined and strong, brave, growing and hope; and...
  - They feel adversity, shamed and isolated, discouraged and defeated, unstable, desperate, angry, overwhelmed, stressed, sad and scared

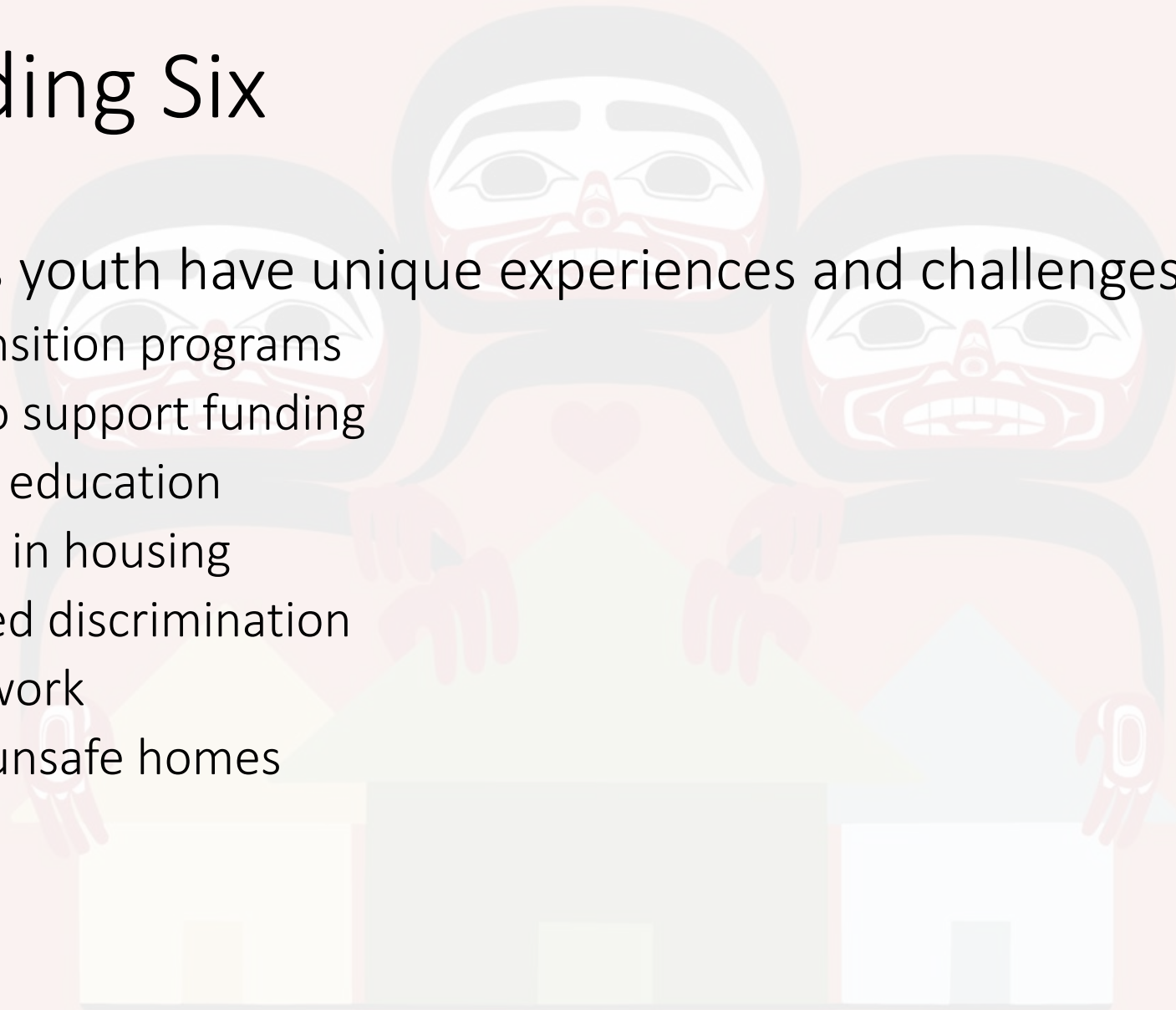


# Key Finding Five

- Indigenous families have unique and complex experiences and challenges, including:
  - Securing housing as single mother
  - Families where some children have never had a home
  - Experiencing homelessness while pregnant
  - Experiencing homelessness due to relationship changes
  - Difficulty finding housing of an appropriate size, which can lead to family separation

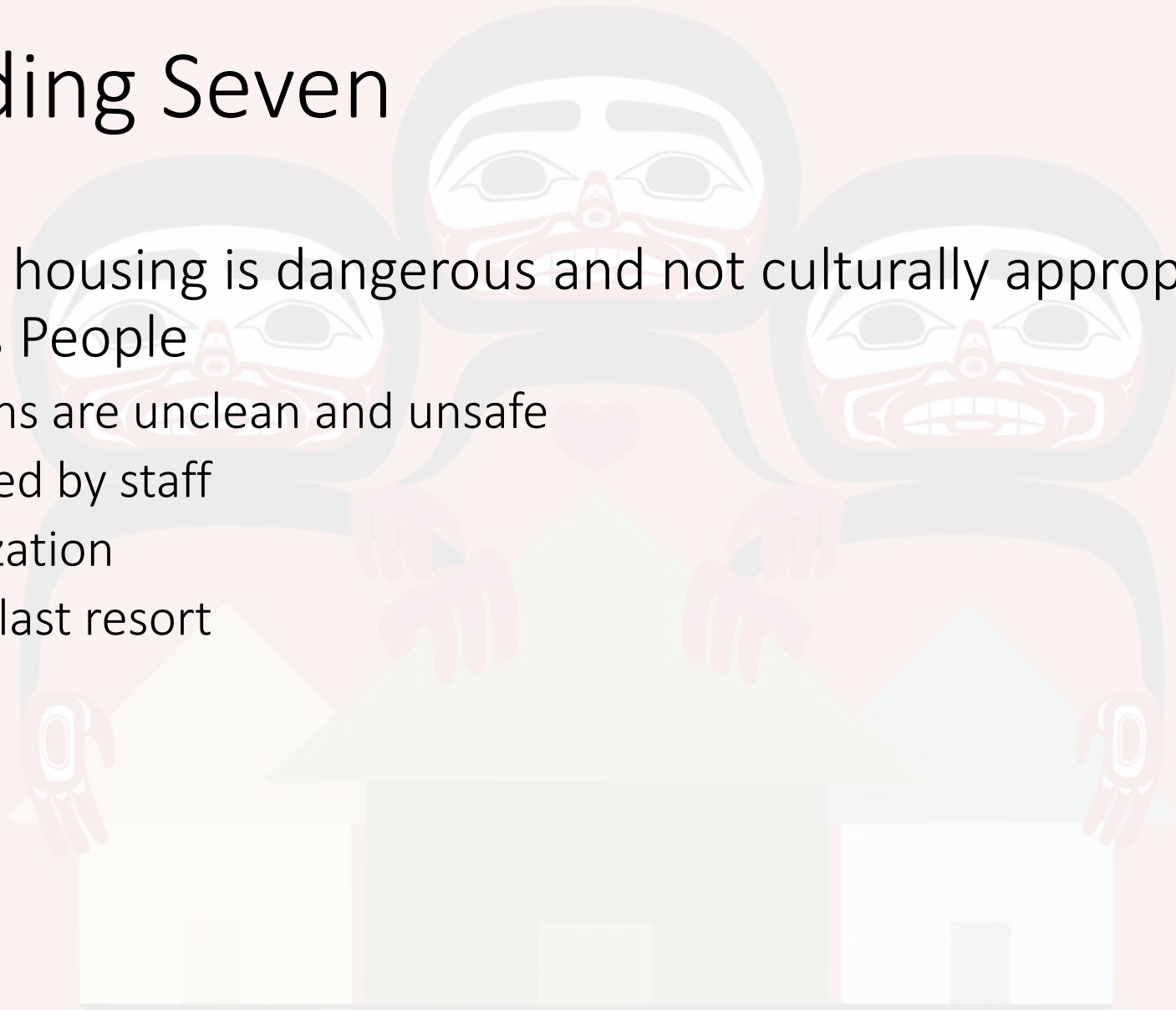
# Key Finding Six

- Indigenous youth have unique experiences and challenges, including:
  - Poor transition programs
  - Access to support funding
  - Life skills education
  - Precarity in housing
  - Age-based discrimination
  - Finding work
  - Leaving unsafe homes



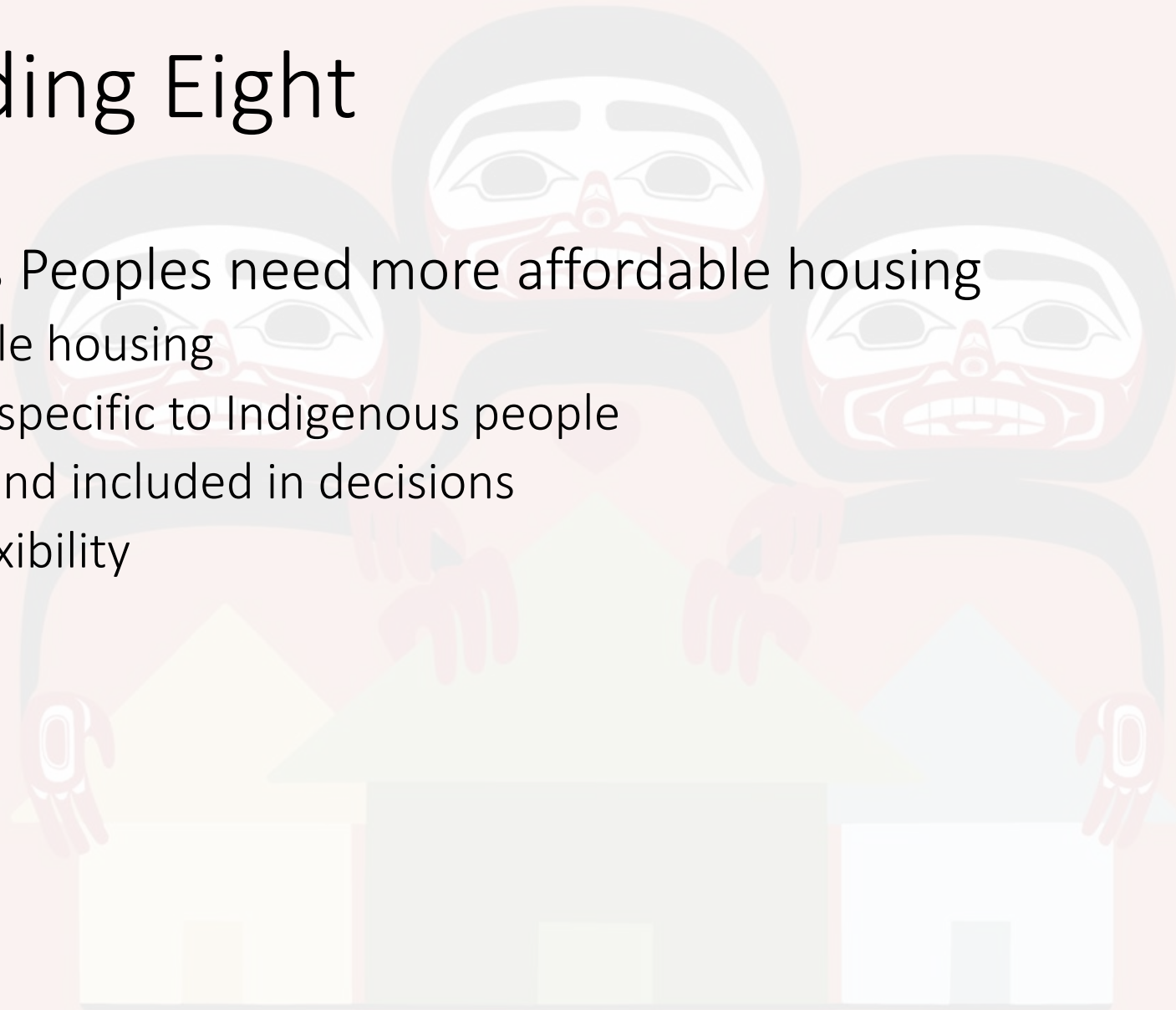
# Key Finding Seven

- Temporary housing is dangerous and not culturally appropriate for Indigenous People
  - Conditions are unclean and unsafe
  - Mistreated by staff
  - Stigmatization
  - Use as a last resort



# Key Finding Eight

- Indigenous Peoples need more affordable housing
  - Affordable housing
  - Housing specific to Indigenous people
  - Agency and included in decisions
  - More flexibility



# Key Finding Nine

- Indigenous Peoples need more supports and more culturally appropriate supports
  - Access to food and washrooms
  - Culturally appropriate and holistic programming needed to “bring the spirit back into the body”
  - Financial support
  - Supportive person or community
  - Improve youth agreements and service locations
  - Trauma-informed approaches
  - Indigenous staff and Indigenous service providers

# Key Finding Ten

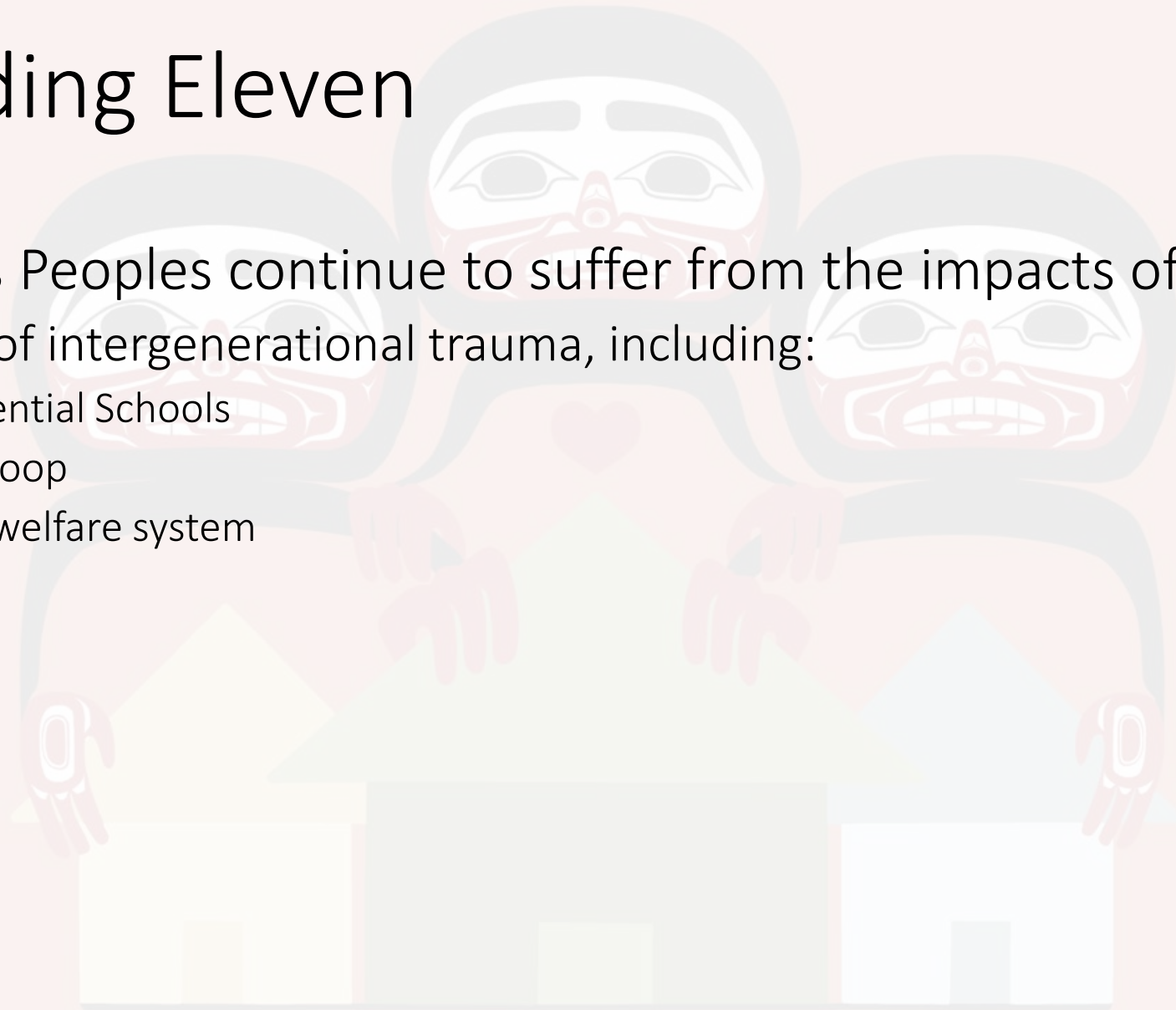
- Indigenous Peoples need to feel safe when accessing services
  - Experiences of racism, discrimination, stigmatization, stereotyping, and tokenization need to end
  - End imposition of religious, patriarchal, western feminist belief systems
  - Create space for Indigenous People to be in care of Indigenous People





# Key Finding Eleven

- Indigenous Peoples continue to suffer from the impacts of colonialism
  - Impacts of intergenerational trauma, including:
    - Residential Schools
    - 60s scoop
    - Child welfare system





# The BC Indigenous Homelessness Strategy

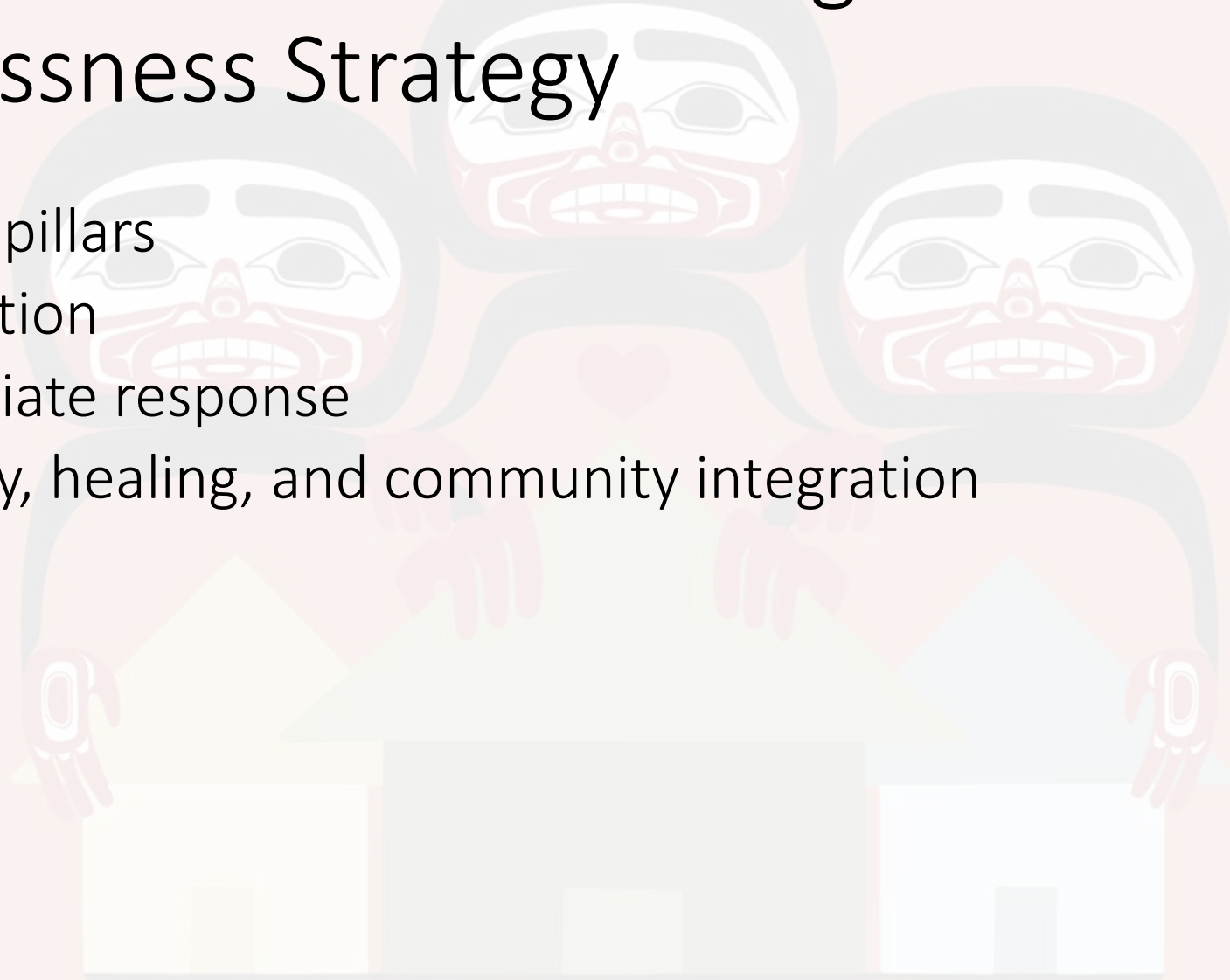
# The Steering Committee Concept

- Working with partners to establish a table that was:
  - Indigenous-led and engaged
  - Inclusive to all Indigenous organizations working with homelessness
  - Decision making body

The Indigenous Homelessness Steering Committee comprised of Indigenous organizations providing homelessness services at the frontline and provincially.

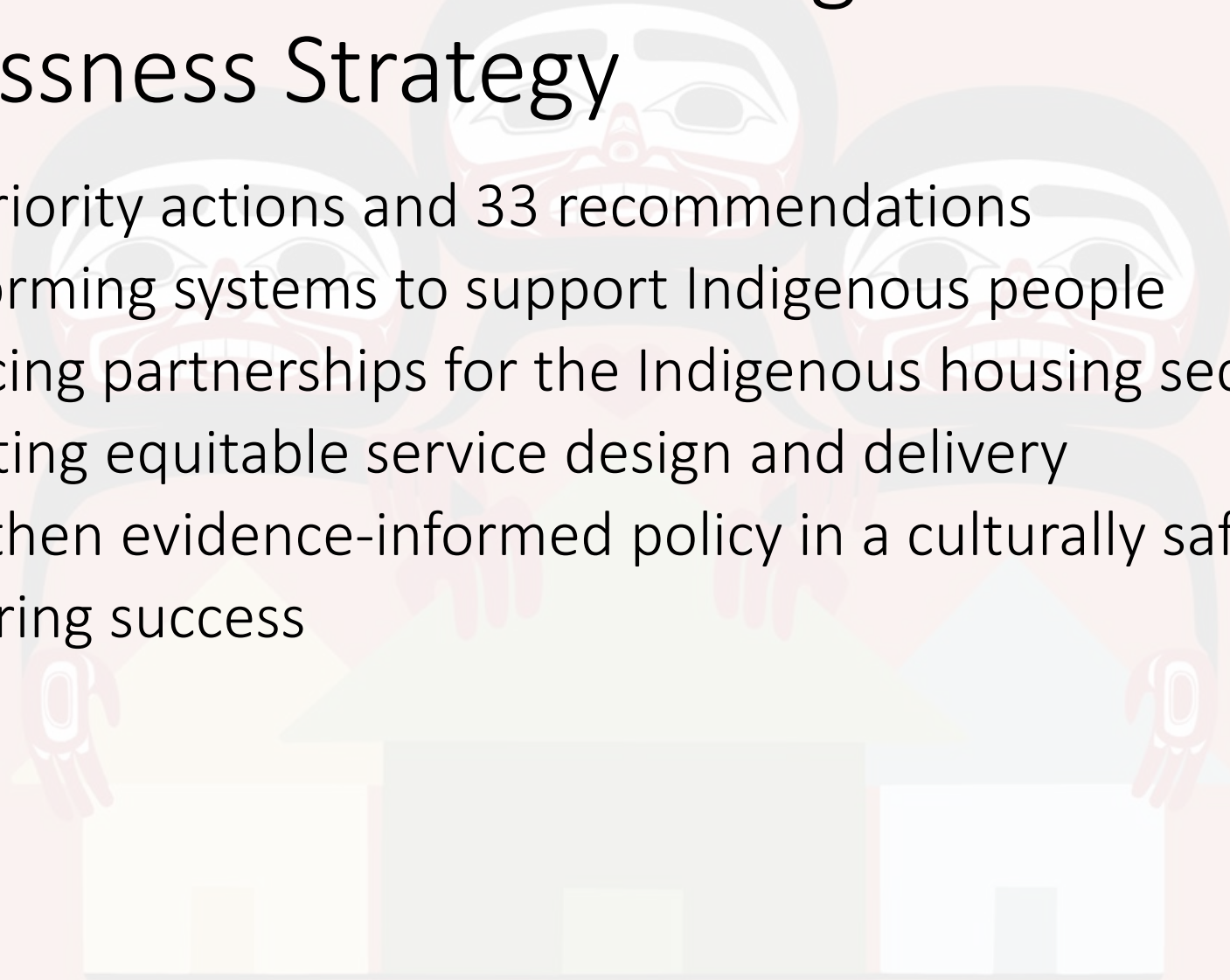
# Development of the BC Indigenous Homelessness Strategy

- 3 strategic pillars
  - Prevention
  - Immediate response
  - Stability, healing, and community integration



# Development of the BC Indigenous Homelessness Strategy

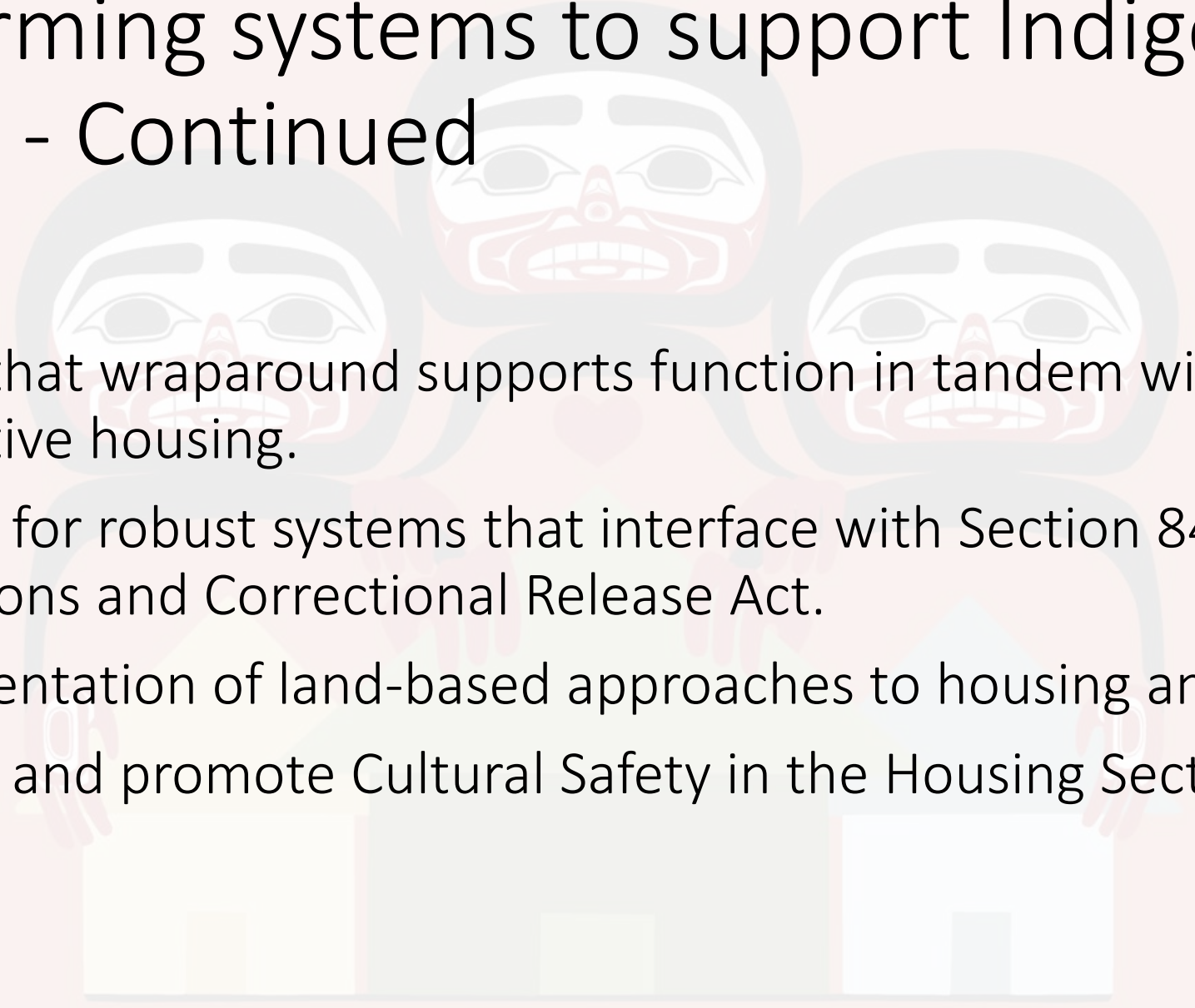
- 5 sets of priority actions and 33 recommendations
  - Transforming systems to support Indigenous people
  - Enhancing partnerships for the Indigenous housing sector
  - Promoting equitable service design and delivery
  - Strengthen evidence-informed policy in a culturally safe way
  - Measuring success



# Transforming systems to support Indigenous Peoples

1. Equitable funding for Indigenous-led Complex Care Housing, designed and determined by Indigenous communities.
2. Specific trauma-informed housing allocations and support within the Permanent Housing Plan for Indigenous Peoples healing.
3. Supported Rent Supplements set aside for Indigenous Peoples and administered in line with guidance from Indigenous organizations and communities, surrounded by supportive services.
4. Equitable funding for Integrated Supports for Indigenous Peoples.
5. Ongoing support for the Dual Model of Housing Care Framework.

# Transforming systems to support Indigenous Peoples - Continued

The background features a stylized illustration of three Indigenous figures. They are depicted from the chest up, wearing traditional headgear and holding a white banner with a yellow and green design. The figures are rendered in a light, semi-transparent style, allowing the text to be clearly visible over them.

6. Ensure that wraparound supports function in tandem with supportive housing.
7. Support for robust systems that interface with Section 84 of the Corrections and Correctional Release Act.
8. Implementation of land-based approaches to housing and wellness.
9. Support and promote Cultural Safety in the Housing Sector.

# Enhancing partnerships for the Indigenous housing sector

10. Funding to support culturally safe, trauma-informed, and coordinated encampment responses that provide space for meaningful Indigenous engagement and leadership.
11. Funding to support peer support workers and the purposeful engagement of people with lived and living experiences in all spaces.
12. Make space to allow Indigenous communities and Peoples with lived/living experiences to lead the design of long-term solutions to address experiences of being unhoused and housing insecurity.
13. Create an Indigenous Stream of the Homelessness Community Action Grants. Support Indigenous communities to design the grant and the process of funding distribution.
14. Ensure Indigenous collaboration in developing the Community Inclusion Knowledge Guide and those participating in the process are remunerated appropriately for their time and expertise.



# Enhancing partnerships for the Indigenous housing sector - Continued

15. Support for more Indigenous employment in the non-profit sector.
16. Funding for Indigenous teachings across life events and life skills in the housing sector and create space for culturally supported housing.
17. Funding to help Indigenous organizations build relationships with relevant nations.
18. Funding to help Indigenous tenants access legal clinics about tenant rights and responsibilities.
19. Work with Indigenous organizations and support them to explore other ways to build their organizational capacity.

# Promoting equitable service design and delivery

20. Develop an implementation plan in conjunction with appropriate organizations regarding Indigenous youth transitioning out of government care.
21. Establish an Indigenous Lived Experience Network that feeds into the broader Lived Experience Network, and ensure it is resourced and undertaken appropriately.
22. Establish an Indigenous Decision-Making Panel that can drive implementation of both the mainstream BC Homelessness Strategy and the BC Indigenous Homelessness Strategy.
23. Improve intake processes for those accessing homelessness services and create/amplify Indigenous designed intake processes.

# Strengthening evidence-informed policy in a culturally safe way

24. Incorporate Indigenous organizations and communities as close partners for the Provincial Homeless Count and include learnings from the BC Indigenous Homelessness Strategy Data Collection Process.
25. Engage with the Indigenous communities, organizations, and leadership on the Integrated Data Project and acknowledge the importance of data sovereignty.
26. Ensure funding for new research on unhoused or precariously housed Indigenous women including efforts to include and meet Indigenous women in a way that works for them.
27. Fund and support specific projects to protect Indigenous women in high-risk areas.
28. Support and help leverage the recently developed BC Indigenous Data Collection Framework.

# Measuring success

29. Commence evaluation of any strategy seeking to address experiences of being unhoused from the beginning of strategy development, with continuous evaluation throughout the process.
30. Develop a work plan in collaboration with Indigenous organizations, communities, and leadership, with the BC IHSSC as the lead.
31. Develop key performance indicators and evaluative measures in collaboration with Indigenous organizations, communities, and leadership, with the BC IHSSC as the lead.
32. Determine roles and responsibilities in collaboration with Indigenous organizations, communities, and leadership, with the BC IHSSC as the lead.
33. Delegate oversight authority to the BC IHSSC to enable an Indigenous-led body to ensure the Province appropriately funds and implements projects to address Indigenous experiences of being unhoused.



**What's  
Next?**



# Questions?

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