HIFIS 4.0.61.1 Release Notes

February 2026

As the Government of Canada advances the National Housing Strategy and Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, the importance of data collection, management, and sharing has never been more pronounced. These elements are critical for advancing our collective understanding of homelessness and facilitating informed decision-making. Reaching Home underscores the significance of a data-driven, client-centered approach in addressing the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk.

In this context, the Government of Canada remains dedicated to continually enhancing the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS). Our goal is to ensure HIFIS is not only secure but also fully supportive of communities in their efforts to collect crucial data, prevent homelessness, and drive meaningful reduction strategies.

If you have feedback on HIFIS you would like to share with us, please contact the HIFIS Client Support Centre at 1-866-324-2375 or support@HIFIS.ca.

Release Highlights:

- Transition from Bing Maps to Google Maps, offering improved mapping accuracy and usability across the application.
- A new Enumeration Module to support annual Point-in-Time Count activities.
- A new Last Known City field to enhance tracking of client movement across large geographic areas, including updates to the Geographic Region Mapping feature.
- 54 other minor changes and enhancements and 47 bug fixes to further improve system performance and user experience.

Important Notice

Key Recommendations:

- Create a copy of your production environment and deploy it to your sandbox or testing site.
- Perform the update on the sandbox/testing environment first to evaluate the impact of the recalculation and the overall duration of the process.
- Verify that all key functionalities and client data behave as expected after the update in the sandbox environment before proceeding with the production update.

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact the HIFIS Client Support Center.

Google Maps API Key Requirement:

Communities that wish to use Google Maps in HIFIS must obtain their own Google Maps API Key. The key can be entered and managed in the Application Settings, but HICC does not provide a shared or default key.

SQL Server 2016 Minimum Requirement:

Please note that Microsoft has ended its support of SQL Server 2014 effective July 9th, 2024. As a result, the lowest version of SQL Server supported by HIFIS will be SQL Server 2016.

We strongly recommend upgrading to SQL Server 2016. Moving forward versions and releases of HIFIS require SQL Server 2016, and Microsoft will not be able to assist with any server related problems experienced using SQL Server 2014. For more information on SQL Server 2014 support, you can visit the Microsoft website.

Note: If your community has not yet implemented releases 4.0.58.1 or above, note that updating to release 4.0.61.1 may have an impact on your custom reports. This is due to changes to your database's underlying structure that were introduced in release 4.0.58.1 of HIFIS. Check release notes 4.0.58.1 for additional information on the affected tables. Consult your report service provider if you have any issues.

WARNING: Before implementing this release, a backup of your database is necessary. Taking a snapshot of your application tier before implementing this update is also important in the event that a roll back of the changes should be required.

Database Changes

The [HIFIS Schema is available here](#) and has been updated for 61.1.

Change Description	Module(s) Impacted
Renamed the HIFIS_CityTypes.TypeIDcolumn to HIFIS_CityTypes.ID to conform with naming convention of lookup tables. Any references to HIFIS_CityTypes.TypeID must be updated to reference HIFIS_CityTypes.ID to ensure continued functionality.	Reports

How to get this release

To download the application files, [click here](#).

New features & Major changes

New features or major changes introduced as part of this release:

Code Optimization of Stored Procedures

As part of our ongoing effort to improve overall system performance, HICC continues to review and optimize key stored procedures within HIFIS. This work focuses on enhancing efficiency, reducing processing time, and ensuring smoother execution of automated system tasks. These improvements are part of a broader commitment to strengthening application performance and stability across future releases.

Also, HIFIS now processes certain background tasks more efficiently by running them asynchronously. This improves system responsiveness by allowing the application to continue running other tasks without waiting for calculations to finish, resulting in smoother performance during client updates.

Change Description	Module(s) Impacted
Applied asynchronous execution to stored procedure sp_UpdateClientChronicityStatus. This improves system responsiveness by allowing the application to continue running other tasks without waiting for the chronicity calculation to finish, resulting in smoother performance during client updates.	System
Applied asynchronous execution to stored procedure sp_UpdateClientHousingStatus.	System

New Enumeration Module

HIFIS now includes a dedicated Enumeration module to collect, manage, and export Point-in-Time (PiT) enumeration data. This includes the Enumeration form, the ability to add local question, questions from the PiT Count survey (via the Marketplace) and an Enumeration report.

Change Description	Module(s)
Added shelter stay information to the Enumeration export. The shelter stay data is based on the admissions recorded the day of the enumeration event. Not the day that the data is exported.	PiT Count > Enumeration
Added an "Observed Homelessness" option to Enumeration events.	PiT Count > Enumeration
Added new user rights for the Enumeration module	Rights
Added an Enumeration List View.	PiT Count > Enumeration
Added an Enumeration form.	PiT Count > Enumeration
Added Enumeration modules under the PiT Count menu.	PiT Count > Enumeration
Created a new report for Enumeration events.	Reports
Added radio buttons to the PiT Count view.	PiT Count > Events
Added a Systems Homelessness setting to the Enumeration configuration options. When this setting is toggled to "Yes", question C1 appears in the Enumeration form only when one of the following values is selected in Question C:	PiT Count > Enumeration

• Hospital • Treatment Centre • Jail, Prison, Remand Centre	

Geographic Region and Last Known City Field

New updates support more reliable community-level reporting by introducing the "Last Known City" field and improving how geographic information is captured, stored, and displayed across modules.

The "Last Known City" field is automatically populated based on the client's most recent housing or shelter history. HIFIS will first use the city from the most recent active housing or shelter record. If no active record contains a city, it will use the city from the most recent past record. If no city can be found in any housing or shelter history, HIFIS will use the city from the service provider who created the client.

Change Description	Module(s)
Updated Geographic Region Mapping in Application Settings to allow cities to belong to multiple geographic regions. Note: To access the Geographic Region Mapping tab in the Application Setting, please make sure that the "Enable GeoRegion Filter" option is set to "Yes"	Application Setting
Stopped tracking changes to the Geographic Region field in the Client Vitals change history. The change history log will not track changes to the "Last Known City" field.	Client Details
The Geographic Region field in Client Details auto-populates based on the last known city of the client.	Client Details
Added a "Last Known City" field to Client Details.	Client Details
Added "Last Known City" to the export version of the Coordinated Access List.	Coordinated Access
Added "Last Known City" as a filter option in the Coordinated Access module.	Coordinated Access
Removed the "Geographic Region" filter in the Coordinated Access module.	Coordinated Access
Added "Last Known City" as field in the HIFIS Field Dictionary.	Field Dictionary
The Geographic Region field in the Housing History form is now read-only and is auto-populated based on the city selected in the record.	Housing History
The Geographic Region field in Service Provider Details is now read-only and is auto-populated based on the city where the Service Provider is located.	Service Providers

Google Maps

With the retirement of Bing Maps, HIFIS now uses Google Maps as its mapping service across the entire application. This change preserves all existing mapping capabilities, and users should not experience any differences in functionality or behaviour. All features previously powered by Bing Maps continue to operate as expected using Google's mapping platform.

Change Description	Module(s)
Updated configuration to use a Google Maps API key instead of a Bing Maps key.	Application Settings
Replaced Bing Maps with Google Maps across HIFIS.	Directory of Services Encampment Outreach

Minor changes and Enhancements

Minor changes included in this release:

Change Description	Module(s) Impacted
Users can now assign an Owner to Custom Tables.	
Users can now view the list of cities in geographic region without using the edit view.	Application Settings
Updated tooltips for VI-SPDAT and SPDAT assessments to be clearer.	Assessments
Implemented pagination for Calls and Visits list.	Calls and Visits
Made the "End Date" field in the case management form mandatory.	Case Management
Users are now redirected to the Display Case Management page after saving or	Case Management

ending a Case Management record.	
Updated the icon for client with an active diversion attempt in the Client Details.	Client Details
Added "City of Birth" field to the Client Details form.	Client Details
Added "Unable to Ask" to Racial Identity field in Client Details.	Client Details
Enforced single-record rules for Custom Tables during client merge; when both clients have entries in a single-record table, HIFIS now keeps only the most recent record and discards older ones to maintain data consistency.	Client Merge
The Client Vitals Change History log now tracks Racial Identity changes	Client Details
Added "Don't See Who You're Looking For?" shortcut in additional modules.	Conflict Directory of Services Housing Units Incident Medication Dispensing Appointment Housing History Education Contact
Separated the Coordinated Access List into tabs. • Client Details • Homelessness • Client Interactions • Assessments	Coordinated Access
Added new columns to the Coordinated Access List. • Open Case Management? • Open Housing Placement • Open Housing Loss Prevention	Coordinated Access
Users can now see the assessment type in the Coordinated Access List (Assessments tab).	Coordinated Access
Custom Tables can now be added to the Group Activities module.	Custom Tables
Added "Enable 'Other' option" for multi-select Custom Table fields. This will add "Other" as a value in dropdowns. When selected, an open text field will appear.	Custom Tables
Users can now filter for the status and ownership of custom tables.	Custom Tables
Added a "Owner" column in Custom Table list.	Custom Tables
The custom table list now dynamically displays tables in language set in the application	Custom Tables
Implemented pagination on the Data Export page.	Data Export
Added filter items field to Directory of Services.	Directory Of Services
Added the Geographic Region field in the Diversion "Add Housing History" form.	Diversion
The "Save Diversion" button has been changed to "End Diversion" for Diversion Workflow	Diversion
Service providers can now have Diversion workflow descriptions unique to their service provider.	Diversion Workflow Steps
Service providers can copy the diversion workflow description from other service providers.	Diversion Workflow Steps
Updated confidential document permissions so the Delete action is shown only when a user has rights to view, edit, and delete the record.	Documents
Added a "Contact" field in the Education module.	Education
Added Time field when enumerating an encampment.	Encampment
Added radio buttons to toggle between active and inactive encampment records in the Encampment List.	Encampment
Users can now delete Encampment records.	Encampment
Added a filter items bar to Encampments List.	Encampments
Added pagination to Goods & Services List.	Goods & Services
Implemented pagination for Group Activities list.	Group Activities
Updated the view on the Display Group Activities view to be separated into tabs as opposed to a single long form.	Group Activities
Updated HIFIS footer link to Homelessness Learning Hub.	HIFIS Footer
Added validation for start date in Housing History to prevent housing records that start before a client was born.	Housing History
Added "Display" view for Housing Maintenance records.	Housing Maintenance
Client state will update when a housing placement attempt is created and "Final Attempt" is set to Yes.	Housing Placement
Renamed the "Rent" field and the field now displays the actual rent paid based off	Housing Placement

the associated Housing Placement or Housing Loss Prevention record. **English:** Actual Rent **French:** Loyer effectif	Housing Loss Prevention
Added "Active" column and radio buttons to filter the Housing Unit List.	Housing Units
Updated the "Features" field label in the Housing Unit module. **English:** Housing Features **French:** Particularités du logement	Housing Units
Added new default value to the People Role lookup table. **English:** School Faculty **French:** Faculté de l'école	Look-up Table
The "Module Used In" column now displays the modules in French.	Look-up Table
Service Providers can now unsubscribe from custom City values.	Look-up Table
Renamed "Desired Outcome" table to "Case Goals" so it matches the label in the Case Management module.	Look-up Tables
Updated "Module Used In" lookup table field to display all the modules correctly.	Look-up Tables
Removed the following look-up tables as they have no behavior. • Custom Tables • Layout lookups.	Look-up Tables
Updated label for Address History in People module. **English:** People – Address History **French:** Personnes – Historique d'adresses	People
Added radio buttons to filter between questionnaire owners and statuses.	Questionnaires
Updated questionnaire editing behaviour so users can open the Edit Questionnaire form for questionnaires owned by another Service Provider when they have edit rights	Questionnaires
Updated "View Confidential Identifications" right label. **English:** View Confidential Identification Records **French:** Afficher les dossiers d'identification confidentiels	Rights
Added user right to delete Encampment records.	Rights
Users can now set a French title for the custom tables tab.	Service Providers
Added option to make Identification Number optional in the Identification module.	Service Providers
Added option to make the "Owner" field mandatory in Goods & Services - Express Template and Questionnaire form.	Service Providers
Alphabetized menus throughout HIFIS.	System
The user welcome email is now sent once an account is activated. Previously, it was sent once the account was created.	Users
Paginated the Waiting List module to improve loading.	Waiting List
The Welcome Page now displays a list of recent clients the user interacted with.	Welcome Page

Bug fixes

Bug fixes included in this release:

Issue ID	Issue Description	Module(s)
771009	Fixed cluster filtering in the Bed Availability tab; the full list of Service Providers in the cluster now appear as expected.	Admissions
771030	Fixed issue where the client field is disabled when attempting to book-in a family. Users can now remove individual clients in a family before completing an admission.	Admissions
771432	Fixed the alignment of the "Manage Geographic Region" fields in French.	Application Settings
770438	Restored display of Session Details when attempting to view all sessions details in Case Management.	Case Management
770976	Fixed an issue where hidden clients were appearing in the Excel version of the Case Management list.	Case Management
771012	Fixed issue where case sessions with a description with more than 420 characters would take a long time to save.	Case Management
771070	Fixed Case Worker filtering so users with the Case Worker role in the current Service Provider are displayed even if they belong to different clusters.	Case Management Diversion Housing Placement
770991	Fixed graphical issue in the client summary box when the client	Client Details

	state is set to "Archived".	
771429	Removed the toast message when Date of Birth is blank in Client Details. It will now appear as a confirmation message.	Client Details
771246	The Client Service Delete module now filters service types and records to enforce Service Provider rights when deleting client services.	Client Service Delete
770830	Fixed an issue where future-dated Housing History records did not automatically update a client's housing status.	Client Vitals
770888	Updated consent logic so that adding a new consent automatically ends the previous active consent on the new start date. Added validation to prevent entering a start date earlier than the most recent ended consent when no active consent exists.	Consent
771093	Improved the accuracy of chronicity reporting by standardizing the 3-year rule calculation to 546 days. Previously, some views used a 540-day threshold, leading to inconsistent client status displays.	Coordinated Access
771360	Fixed untranslated content in Coordinated Access List.	Coordinated Access
771361	Fixed duplicate client entries in the Coordinated Access List when they have multiple open consent records.	Coordinated Access
771401	Translated buttons on the Data Export preview screen.	Data Export
771415	Fixed the EXPORT_ tables not refreshing prior to the automated export process.	Data Export
770822	Fixed the filter feature in Directory of Services.	Directory of Services
770823	Fixed punctuations not displaying properly when generating a notification message in French after saving a diversion form.	Diversion
770824	Fixed issue preventing users from creating a new diversion record and after deleting a diversion workflow record.	Diversion
771132	Fixed the "Financial Assistance Provided" toggle not saving properly when it is set to "Yes".	Diversion
771460	Programs now appear as expected when using the Display and Manage views.	Goods and Services
771142	Corrected ProgramID mapping in Group Activities.	Group Activities
771162	Fixed incorrect end date appearing when replicating a group activity.	Group Activities
771090	Fixed content on the "How to Book Out a Client" help page appearing in the wrong language.	Help Centre
767444	Editing the Housing Placement move in date now edits the start date in the corresponding Housing History record.	Housing History
770800	Disabled the Extension field in the Housing History form when the "Telephone1" field is disabled.	Housing History
770832	Fixed tooltip language in Housing History not updating when switching languages.	Housing History
771346	Removed old code from Housing Units List view that was performing unnecessary loading.	Housing Units
770798	Disabled the "Maximum Number of Doses per Day" in medication modules when it's set to disabled in the Service Provider Mandatories.	Medication Dispensing
770848	Resolved JSON error appearing when sorting columns in the People list.	People
771052	Fixed tool tips overlapping; they now appear properly.	Program
770816	Fixed grammatical mistakes when viewing the Registration module in French.	Registration
771351	Fixed missing database version validation for new reports downloaded from the Reports Marketplace. This allowed users on older versions of HIFIS to see reports requiring newer versions.	Reports
771027	Reviewed and resolved inconsistencies in Waiting List user rights.	Rights
771029	Fixed missing rights check on the Custom Tables tab in the Client Details module, users with the appropriate rights can now see the Custom Tables.	Rights
770908	Fixed a filter issue preventing the full list of service providers from appearing in the Service Provider List.	Service Providers
771188	Service provider mandatories are now properly enforced in the Housing Unit module.	Service Providers

770950	Fixed an issue where RecentActivityModuleTypeID and RecentActivityDateTime in the Client table were not updating correctly to reflect a client's most recent activity.	System
770979	Fixed an issue where the stored procedure stopped processing client records when encountering large gaps in Client IDs.	System
771130	Fixed background error being generated and logged when 2FA is enabled.	System
771135	Resolved a bug that prevented new user accounts from being created when strict password requirements were enabled. The system now ensures auto-generated passwords always meet your security criteria.	System
771468	Removed triggers on all tables that were automatically modifying the LastUpdatedDate field.	System
770375	Fixed spacing and punctuations across the application when using HIFIS in French.	System
771375	Removed access to Clone action for users without Add User rights.	Users
771444	Fixed the "This user account is currently inactive" alert not clearing when activating a client.	Users
771174	Fixed the Waiting List status date not updating after editing the record.	Waiting List

Known Issues

Known issues discovered during testing of this build. These issues will be addressed in a future release of HIFIS:

Issue ID	Issue Description	Module(s)
771520	Map markers in the Directory of Services may appear off their correct locations due to address data not being accurately geocoded.	Directory of Services
771523	Long consent labels may be cut off when viewing or editing vitals.	Client Details
771524	Editing a rights template owned by a different Service Provider may result in display errors and issues saving changes.	Rights Templates
771555	When displaying a turn away record, the Program field is not properly aligned with the other field.	Turn Aways
771557	Non-shareable health issues may still appear in the dropdown when creating a medication record, even though they should be hidden.	Health Information
771564	After editing a client's physical appearance, the record saves but the user is not redirected back to the display view.	Client Details
771585	Entering invalid characters in the "Number of Individuals" field causes an error and removes the values in the Program field. This prevents users from saving the form if the field is mandatory.	Goods and Services
771620	Users are not able to add family members to a PiT survey when using the scrolling version.	PiT Count
771621	When an Enumeration event is active at the same time as a PiT event, the "Add PiT Volunteers" option no longer appears.	PiT Count
771622	No results appear under the VI-SPDAT tab when the "ALL" filter is selected in the SPDAT Intake List.	SPDAT

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