



News Release

Housing Minister uses visit of CMHC board to highlight Nunavut's pressing housing needs

IQAUIT, Nunavut (August 24, 2000) – Manitok Thompson, Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, said the recent visit of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Board of Directors was an ideal opportunity to press for a renewed federal commitment to housing in the territory.

The CMHC, the federal Crown Corporation responsible for housing in Canada, visited Nunavut as part of a Northern tour. Through the Social Housing Agreement with the Government of Nunavut, the CMHC contributes funding towards the operations and maintenance of 3,226 social housing units in Nunavut.

“During the tour, board members were able to see first-hand the Government of Nunavut’s initiative to construct 100 new housing units,” Minister Thompson said. “They also saw the condition of some of the existing social housing units, as well as the distinct building techniques that are tailored to our terrain. They were also exposed to the annual sealift and saw the construction constraints we work under in Nunavut.”

Minister Thompson used the opportunity of the Board’s visit to further state the case for a renewed federal presence in housing in Nunavut - both for new construction dollars and for operations and maintenance funding. She added that the Board’s tour of Iqaluit and Pangnirtung gave Board members the opportunity to witness the pressing social housing needs that Nunavummiut face on a daily basis.

Minister Thompson and senior Nunavut Housing Corporation officials are expected to visit Ottawa in the near future to further emphasize the need for a strong federal/territorial strategy for housing in Nunavut.

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