



News Release

Nunavut and Canada sign Affordable Housing Agreement

IQALUIT, Nunavut (February 5, 2002) -- The governments of Nunavut and Canada today announced the signing of an Affordable Housing Agreement that will provide funding to help increase the affordable housing supply in the territory. Federal funding of \$4.96 million, combined with funding from Nunavut, demonstrates the commitment of both governments to work together to address the affordable housing problem.

The announcement was made jointly by John Manley, Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), and Kelvin Ng, Minister of Finance and Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC.)

"I'm happy we were able to get moving on this agreement," Minister Manley said. "This agreement, between our two levels of government, means a great deal to those in need of affordable housing in Nunavut. This signing follows our meeting of federal, provincial and territorial housing ministers in Quebec City, on November 30, where we reaffirmed a federal commitment of \$680 million for affordable housing."

Minister Ng said he was also pleased with the agreement. "There's a great need for affordable housing in Nunavut and this agreement means we will see some relief immediately. We will continue to work closely with the federal government to ensure the best possible housing for our citizens over the long term as well."

Under the bilateral agreement Nunavut will use the \$4.96 million for the creation of new assisted housing through capital grants. The NHC will provide additional subsidies to introduce a rent-gear-to-income system for lower income households.

The Affordable Housing Initiative was announced in the federal Speech from the Throne in January as a federal response to the affordable housing situation in the country. The \$680 million in federal funding was confirmed in the 2001 federal budget on December 10. A total of \$80 million has been allocated to remote areas including the territories.

Persons and organizations interested in more details on this initiative should contact the NHC at (867) 975-6411.

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