



News Release



National Aboriginal Housing Association Endorses Nunavut's Bid for Increased Federal Housing Funds

IQALUIT, Nunavut (April 13, 2004) – Peter Kilabuk, Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC), and Paul Kaludjak, President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), announced today that the board of the National Aboriginal Housing Association (NAHA) has endorsed Nunavut's urgent requirement for the federal government to reinstate a sustainable social housing program for Nunavut.

This announcement comes after representatives from the NHC and NTI made strong presentations to NAHA participants at the Association's annual meeting March 29 – 30, 2004.

Both presentations grew out of the NHC's and NTI's recent collaborative work on a business case that outlines Nunavut's urgent need for a federal funding intervention to address dire housing shortages.

"The recent NAHA resolution means that Nunavut's message is being heard," said Kilabuk. "The NHC and NTI recognize the need to secure additional housing resources, and together we are working to raise awareness of our unique housing challenges. I am pleased that our joint efforts have resulted in a strong show of support from this respected national Aboriginal organization."

Kaludjak was also encouraged by the NAHA Board's resolution, which reads in part:

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT The National Aboriginal non-reserve housing strategy will take special note of the unique housing difficulties faced by Nunavut Inuit and will urge the federal government to re-instate a long-term social housing program for Nunavut Inuit."

"Public housing tenants are suffering most from Nunavut's housing shortage, and the majority of these tenants are Inuit," noted Kaludjak. "Funding for the territory is simply not sufficient to address existing needs. There is a substantial backlog of unmet need and is growing constantly as our population increases."

The NHC and NTI will be continuing their joint development of a business case for a federal intervention into Nunavut's housing crisis over the next several months.

-30-

Media Contacts:

Chris D'Arcy, Director, Policy and Planning
Nunavut Housing Corp.
(867) 975-7202

Joanassie Kanayuk
Acting Director, Communications
Nunavut Tunngavik Inc
(867) 975-4922