

## News Release

## New NHC program helps Elders to stay in their homes

**Iqaluit, Nunavut** (October 27, 2005) The Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Olayuk Akesuk, today announced a program that will help Elders and homeowners with disabilities maintain independent lifestyles.

"It is important for homeowners to keep their home in good shape," said Akesuk. "A house in need of repair wastes a lot of energy and becomes a burden on the homeowner, especially for Elders and those homeowners with disabilities."

The new Seniors and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program is designed to assist qualifying senior citizens and physically challenged homeowners with funds for annual and general preventative maintenance projects to improve the energy efficiency and health and safety standards of their homes.

The program provides an annual grant of \$1,500 from the Nunavut Housing Corporation for such projects as servicing the furnace, hot water boiler, water tank and pump, ventilation, or ductwork systems and/or general preventative projects related to energy efficiency, accessibility, and minor repairs to windows, doors, and fixtures.

"Our aging homeowners, on limited pensions, are finding it more and more difficult to look after their homes," stated Akesuk. "This program is designed to help our elders to enjoy the independence of homeownership longer."

Interested applicants should contact their NHC District Program Officer for more information on the program and criteria for qualification.

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