



News Release

New Strategy for GN Staff Housing aims to increase housing options for Nunavummiut

IQALUIT, Nunavut (September 13, 2005) - The Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation announced today a new strategy for Government of Nunavut (GN) Staff Housing that will help the government address Nunavut's ongoing housing shortage by supporting a strong, private sector led housing market in Nunavut.

"In order to achieve the Government of Nunavut's long term goals of Healthy Communities and Self-Reliance, as stated in Pinasuaqtavut 2004-2009, it is critical that we take steps today to establish sustainable housing markets and encourage homeownership," said Akesuk.

The new staff housing strategy will be phased in over a five to ten year period. During this time the Government will incrementally increase rental rates in all Nunavut communities and withdraw from providing staff housing in the emerging market communities of Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. This change in policy will lead to an incremental upward correction in rents to private market rates and the transfer of landlord responsibilities from the GN to property owners.

"All Nunavummiut have a shared responsibility in contributing to a solution to our housing shortage crisis" said Akesuk. "Our new housing strategy is meant to encourage private housing options and to improve the self-reliance of Nunavummiut."

Highlights of the new GN Staff Housing strategy include the introduction of a Rental Assistance Program to help lower income GN employees keep their rents affordable.

The strategy opens the way for more housing choices such as cooperative housing, townhouses, condominiums and other types of housing tenure.

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N.B. Fact Sheet Attached

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