

News Release

Nunavut Housing Corporation Wins Design Award

IQALUIT, Nunavut (November 8, 2006) – A Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC) house design has been recognized for its energy efficiency and reflection of Arctic lifestyle needs. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) honoured the Nunavut design with its Best Practices in Affordable Housing Award.

Government of Nunavut Housing Minister Olayuk Akesuk accepted the award on behalf of the GN and the housing corporation.

"This award recognizes the innovative work that is underway in Nunavut to improve the energy efficiency of housing and meet the lifestyle and cultural needs of our Inuit tenants," said Akesuk

The award recognizes a NHC five-plex design that will be used to provide affordable and energy efficient public housing units across Nunavut. Non-conventional building materials improved performance and reduced costs.

"Our extensive community consultations helped us develop an innovative design that recognizes the unique cold-weather challenges of building in the north and contributes significantly to the affordability and livability of housing in Nunavut," said Akesuk.

Innovations include more efficient materials such as rock-wool for insulation and lighter steel studs that are less expensive to ship to Nunavut's remote communities. The design incorporates large open living spaces, larger kitchen cupboards, heated porches, and a shared room for preparing country food.

Most of the upcoming 725 units to be built by NHC will incorporate the award-winning five-plex design.

Attachment: Photos of the Five-plex

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