



Communiqué

Territorial Housing Ministers Call for a New Approach to Northern Housing

WHITEHORSE, Yukon (September 18, 2009) - Territorial Ministers Responsible for Housing met today in Whitehorse to discuss the current state of housing in the Territories and the need for a new approach to address the long-term housing needs of the north.

The Hon. Jim Kenyon of Yukon, the Hon. Hunter Tootoo of Nunavut and the Hon. Robert C. McLeod of Northwest Territories recognized and applauded the housing investments made by Canada through the Northern Housing Trust and Canada's Economic Action Plan. They reviewed Territorial progress in the delivery of housing programs through Federal and Territorial economic stimulus measures that strengthen Canada's economy. Ministers are encouraged by the successes to date and the delivery plans for the next two years.

Ministers reiterated the need for long-term, predictable funding to build and operate housing in Canada's north. Territorial Ministers will continue their dialogue with the Federal government regarding the fundamental links between housing and the pillars of Canada's Integrated Northern Strategy. The territories are unanimous in calling for a new approach to Northern housing that recognizes and supports the essential role that housing plays in addressing issues such as economic development, health, education and Arctic sovereignty. The Ministers are looking forward to presenting their position to the Federal Housing Minister, the Hon. Diane Finley, before the end of this year.

Ministers discussed issues of mutual interest including the impact of climate change on the housing stock. Ministers also received presentations on leading edge construction techniques being used in each territory that promote energy efficiency and reduce operating costs.

This meeting further strengthened the collaboration among the three territorial Housing Corporations through the sharing of best practices, expertise and innovative solutions to pan-territorial housing issues. Ministers have committed to meet again in the spring of 2010.

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