



Housing Corporation Will Deliver 1,000 Homes as Promised

IQALUIT (September 21, 2010) – The Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC) said today that it will complete all 285 public housing units it announced last year.

The government has agreed to provide additional funding to supplement a federal grant NHC received, said Tagak Curley, Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. The supplemental funding could reach up to \$50 million.

“With this investment, we will have completed 1,011 public housing units,” said Minister Curley. “This represents significant progress in addressing the housing needs of Nunavummiut.”

Canada’s Economic Action Plan, announced last year, included \$100 million for new housing in Nunavut under the federal Affordable Housing Initiative. NHC will build 125 housing units in five-unit buildings as well as 160 single-family homes across Nunavut.

Last May, NHC disclosed that the cost of completing this construction program would exceed its original budget. NHC President Alain Barriault said today that costs for labour, lots and development were higher than it first expected. “As we stated publicly last May, the original budget was based on flawed assumptions,” Barriault said.

NHC is already working to complete 726 other units under the Nunavut Housing Trust, funded mostly by a federal contribution in 2006. The \$260 million NHT includes a \$60 million contribution from the Government of Nunavut.

Minister Curley said NHC will reallocate \$11 million to this construction program from other areas of its budget, and the Government of Nunavut will fully offset the remaining costs, identifying funding sources in the next few weeks.

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