



NEWS RELEASE

New Cape Dorset Housing Authority Established

IQALUIT, Nunavut (September 29, 2011) — The Honourable Tagak Curley, Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC) announced today the establishment of a new Local Housing Authority (LHA) for the community of Cape Dorset.

Plans are in progress for the transfer of housing assets, budgets and, where possible, municipal housing staff to the newly created LHA. The LHA will oversee the delivery of the NHC's Public Housing Program.

This initiative is in response to a July 20, 2011 resolution by the Cape Dorset Municipal Council to work with the Nunavut Housing Corporation towards the satisfactory transfer of responsibility for housing by April 01, 2012.

“Council and I felt that we really needed to focus on streamlining our municipal programs,” said Mayor Cary Merritt. “Transferring the responsibility for housing to a Local Housing Authority will allow us to concentrate on the delivery of our core municipal services.”

Shortly after Council met to pass this resolution, Mayor Merritt met with Minister Curley to discuss next steps regarding the creation of the Local Housing Authority.

“We respect the decision of Municipal Council and stand ready to assist Mayor Merritt in transferring the responsibility for housing to the NHC,” said Minister Curley. “After lengthy discussions, we came to a mutual understanding that the time had come to create a Local Housing Authority in Cape Dorset.”

“The creation of an LHA in Cape Dorset will enable us to provide a consistent approach to housing across Nunavut with an organization dedicated to the delivery of housing in every community,” said Alain Barriault, President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. “We will continue to work with front line Municipal staff in order to make the transition as smooth as possible.”

NHC's Qikiqtaaluk District Office is working with the Municipality of Cape Dorset to implement the transfer of employees and housing assets from the Municipal Department of Housing and Public Buildings to the newly created Local Housing Authority.

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