



News Release

Housing secured for all Iqaluit fire victims

Iqaluit, NU (March 24, 2011) -- The Government of Nunavut is ensuring that the housing needs of 24 families, left homeless when apartment building 4100 burned to the ground this morning in Iqaluit, are met. All of the apartments were occupied by Government of Nunavut employees.

“Our hearts go out to all of those Government of Nunavut employees and their families left homeless by this fire. Their most immediate need is shelter,” said Premier Eva Aariak. “The affected staff have all been located and are now staying in hotels or in other accommodation of their choosing. The Nunavut Housing Corporation will be able to arrange alternate staff housing for all of them in short order and we will ensure that they have access to hotels or other interim accommodation in the meantime.”

Government of Nunavut staff are coming together to help out their colleagues and the relief efforts are being coordinated by the Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC).

Donations of goods will be accepted at the GN Staff Housing Warehouse, across from the entrance into Sylvia Grinnell Park, in the West 40, tomorrow from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Specific items needed include:

- Bedding – sheets, blankets, pillowcases, duvets, comforters
- New pillows
- Towels
- Small Appliances – kettles, coffee makers, toasters
- Clothes – all sizes
- Kitchenware – pots, pans, utensils, dishes, cutlery, etc.
- New Personal hygiene essentials – toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, razors, deodorant, etc.
- Non-perishable foods only

All donated items that are not brand new, should be in working condition, recently laundered and or washed. Families will need to use the items immediately. Once they have the items required to get established in an apartment they will be moved into a housing unit.

Cash donations will be accepted at the CIBC bank.

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“We want to get the families settled into new housing as soon as possible,” said Premier Aariak. “We will be meeting with the families to get a better understanding of their needs and will share this information with those wanting to donate as soon as possible.”

Since early this morning there has been an unprecedented expression of community support and interest in helping these families. This outpouring of generosity is greatly appreciated.

There are other fundraising initiatives now underway in Iqaluit and efforts will be made to connect with the other organizations to coordinate donations.

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For more information:

Pam Coulter
Director of Communications
Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs
Tel: 867-795-6049
Email: pcoulter2@gov.nu.ca