

News Release

For Immediate Release

Government of Nunavut welcomes new commitment in federal budget

IQALUIT, Nunavut (March 21, 2013) – Premier Eva Aariak and Finance Minister Keith Peterson welcomed the 2013 federal budget today. The budget includes a renewal of the federal commitment to build infrastructure across Canada, as well as dedicated funding to address Nunavut's critical need for new housing.

In recognition of the distinctive needs of Nunavut, the federal budget proposes \$100 million over two years to support the construction of urgently needed housing in the territory. Funding will be provided through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

"My cabinet and I have worked together with our Member of Parliament to ensure that decision-makers in Ottawa have a better understanding of Nunavut's unique challenges," said Premier Eva Aariak. "I am pleased the federal government has heard our calls for essential investments to address our ongoing and serious housing shortfall."

The federal budget also includes a new national infrastructure program and will continue several existing infrastructure funds.

"The renewal of the Building Canada Fund and the improvement of the Gas Tax Fund will provide much needed additional funding support to municipalities," said Minister Peterson. "Given the major infrastructure challenges faced by Nunavut communities, this is welcome news."

"The federal budget also confirms the renewal of transfers to Nunavut and ensures that our Government has a solid revenue foundation," said Minister of Finance Keith Peterson. "Our Government's continued prudent fiscal management will ensure that we can meet our target plan to remain in balance for the coming years."

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