



News Release

Ministers discuss Northern actions on housing

IQALUIT, Nunavut (June 18, 2020) – Ministers responsible for housing from the Governments of Nunavut, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Canada met via teleconference today to discuss the National Housing Co-Investment Fund (NHCF), recent increased federal support for shelters, as well as distinctions-based Indigenous housing strategies.

Ministers agreed that actions taken to address Northern Canada's disproportionate housing needs and the need for safe shelter from domestic violence must consider the regional climate realities, remoteness, high cost of program delivery, and complexity of the different Indigenous governance structures.

Ministers also agreed that once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, they will meet face-to-face in Iqaluit, Nunavut, to continue discussions that further establish a coordinated approach and plan for long-term success that meets the housing needs of Northern residents across the three territories.

Quotes:

“The federal government is committed to providing communities across Canada with support to develop local housing solutions. Today with my colleague, Dan Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs, we listened to the concerns and unique housing challenges faced by partners in the North, and together we recognize that continued open dialogue is the key to success. Access to safe and affordable housing has the power to lift communities and build prosperity, and we are resolved to make meaningful progress in the years ahead.”

-Hon. Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)

“It was my pleasure to host and facilitate our discussions today. Finding long-lasting solutions to housing needs in the North can only happen through open dialogue and cooperation. It is through our shared understanding of Northern realities and our mutual commitment to solve the current housing issues that we will succeed in providing sustainable, long-term solutions for Nunavummiut and the North.”

-Hon. Patterk Netser, Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation



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“Collaboration with my colleagues in the North and the federal government helps strengthen and grow the housing continuum in the North. I am pleased we are able to discuss issues that matter and anticipate our relationships will grow stronger over time to help serve the people in our jurisdictions.”

-Hon. Pauline Frost, Minister Responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation

“I am pleased with the Government of Canada’s commitment to support housing in the North. This is a critically important issue and a strong partnership with the federal government is required to ensure all residents in the North have a safe, appropriate and affordable place to call home.”

-Hon. Paulie Chinna, Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

Background:

- As Canada’s authority on housing, CMHC contributes to the stability of the housing market and financial system, provides support for Canadians in housing need, and offers unbiased housing research and advice to all levels of Canadian government, consumers and the housing industry. The NHCF is a [National Housing Strategy](#) initiative delivered by CMHC on behalf of the federal government, which gives priority to projects that help those in greatest need including women and children fleeing family violence, seniors, Indigenous Peoples, people with disabilities, those dealing with mental health and addictions, Veterans and young adults. For more information follow CMHC on [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).
- The Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC) was created in 2000 to create, coordinate, and administer housing programs that provide fair access to a range of affordable housing options to families and individuals in Nunavut. NHC delivers its mandate guided by the [Blueprint for Action on Housing](#), a strategic long-term implementation plan that outlines the Government of Nunavut’s response to housing and homelessness in Nunavut.
- The Yukon Housing Corporation delivers housing and program initiatives that address the housing needs of Yukon residents. The Corporation works collaboratively to provide responsive and innovative solutions to diverse housing needs and vulnerabilities that contribute to healthy, sustainable, inclusive Yukon communities guided by the Housing Action Plan for Yukon, the Safe at Home Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness, the National Housing Strategy and Reaching Home. For more information, visit Yukon.ca/Yukon-housing-corporation.



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- The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWTHC) has a mandate to ensure there is a sufficient supply of affordable, adequate and suitable housing to meet the needs of Northwest Territories residents. The NWTHC conducts its business throughout the housing continuum, which include homelessness supports, social housing, homeownership supports, and homeownership repair and market rentals. Lowering the high cost of living in the NWT through the provision of safe, affordable housing is a key priority of the Government of the Northwest Territories. For more information, please call 1-844-NWT-HOME (1-844-698-4663) or visit www.nwthc.ca.

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