



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Inuvialuit Settlement Region Communities Supported by Economic Development and Improved Housing

INUVIK, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (February 24, 2017), - The Honourable Caroline Cochrane, Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWTHC) and Homelessness, and Duane Ningaqsiq Smith, Chair and CEO of Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC), signed a Memorandum of Agreement today to partner towards the renewal of social housing in Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) communities.

Using investments provided under Federal Budget 2016, IRC will construct certain, affordable social housing units on lots owned by NWTHC and turn over the units to the NWTHC upon completion. These units will replace older and aging social housing units. This investment will improve the overall condition of the social housing stock, create more spaces to address homelessness, and help to address the high housing needs in the North and Inuit communities.

Additionally, Nappaq, the Inuvialuit-owned company contracted to construct these units, is committed to using local trades and growing capacity within ISR communities. This work supports the objectives under the section 16 economic measures provisions of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. These projects support economic development in these communities adding important social infrastructure, supporting local and regional businesses and creating training opportunities.

Federal Budget 2016 investments in affordable housing are providing targeted support to those who need it most, including in Northwest Territories, and create good jobs that help grow Canada's economy in a clean and sustainable way.

Quotes

"Housing is essential to better health, education and economic outcomes. Reducing housing inequity is one of many important steps on Canada's journey of healing and reconciliation with the Inuit and a priority for our government. This \$15 million investment will both increase access and

promote innovation in affordable housing for Inuit families. Congratulations to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Government of the Northwest Territories on their Memorandum of Agreement, which helped make this funding agreement possible.”

- **The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, P.C., M.P.**, *Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs*

“Investing in infrastructure creates jobs and strengthens our communities; it supports better, more inclusive and more caring neighbourhoods. The Government of Canada will more than double investments in infrastructure over the next decade so that all Canadians, including Inuit, have access to safer, adequate and affordable housing.”

- **The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos**, *Minister of Families, Children and Social Development*

“This trilateral partnership between the Federal Government, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and Northwest Territories Housing Corporation shows our commitment to investing in culturally-relevant community infrastructure throughout the Inuvialuit Settlement Region to better support our beneficiaries. With all six ISR communities involved in the planned housing replacements, we can spread economic opportunity, further assist Inuvialuit who seek affordable housing and enhance capacity throughout our region.”

-**Duane Smith**, *Chair and CEO of Inuvialuit Regional Corporation*

“The Government of the Northwest Territories through the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation welcomes the opportunity to partner with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation to improve housing in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Our organizations recognize the importance of housing to our residents and how it is the fundamental building block toward wellness and prosperity for our families. Our partnership will also provide important employment and economic investment in our communities.”

- **Caroline Cochrane**, *Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and Homelessness*

Quick Facts

- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada is providing the IRC with \$15 million in funding to build social housing units on NWT HC land, which includes \$5 million in 2016-17 and \$10 million in 2017-18.

- In 2016-17, the IRC is proposing to construct a six-plex in Inuvik and a four-plex in Tuktoyaktuk. Planning for 2017-18 projects is underway and will be mutually agreed upon by the IRC and the NWTTC.

Associated Links

- [Investing in Canada: The \\$186 Billion Long-Term Infrastructure Plan](#)
- [Budget 2016 highlights – Indigenous and Northern Investments](#)

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