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For Immediate Release

New Act will broaden spectrum of housing, providing a better and fairer system, says First Minister

A Bill for an Act Respecting Housing in Nunatsiavut and to Establish a Nunatsiavut Housing Commission has received presidential assent, following second reading today in the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

The Act will see the creation of a high-level Nunatsiavut policy to govern all housing development and programs. It will see the creation of a Nunatsiavut Housing Commission, semi-independent of the Nunatsiavut Government, as the preferred institution for providing housing in Nunatsiavut. As well, under the Act, housing committees will be established in each of the five Labrador Inuit communities to provide advice and recommendations to the Commission.

The Bill received first reading last September, and a special committee was established to consult with Inuit, Inuit communities as well as Torngat Regional Housing Association for the purpose of preparing a report to be tabled at the Nunatsiavut Assembly before second reading.

“We all know there’s a housing crisis in Nunatsiavut, particularly in Nain and Hopedale,” notes First Minister Kate Mitchell. “We have been working for years to try and deal with the issue, and while we have made some progress, there is still much more that needs to be done. That’s why we think it’s important for a different approach, one that looks at the whole picture, and not just part of it.”

As per the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, the Nunatsiavut Government may make laws with respect to the development of Labrador Inuit Lands for housing purposes and for the construction, maintenance, allocation, control, improvement, renovation and removal of housing in Labrador Inuit Lands and housing owned by an Inuit Government in the Inuit Communities.

“This Act will result in a more comprehensive, efficient and improved means of addressing housing issues and needs in Nunatsiavut than is currently in place,” adds the First Minister, “and would result in a broader spectrum of housing, and a better, more fairer and equitable process.”

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