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For Immediate Release

Nunatsiavut Housing Commission closer to reality

In March 2019, the Nunatsiavut Assembly passed *An Act Respecting Housing in Nunatsiavut and to Establish a Nunatsiavut Housing Commission*. A final report outlining steps required to establish the Commission, including an implementation plan, draft policies, bylaws and timelines was approved recently by the Nunatsiavut Executive Council (NEC).

“Housing continues to be one of our most pressing issues,” says Nunatsiavut’s First Minister Tyler Edmunds. “A lot of work has been done over the years, and the establishment of the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission will allow us to continue implementing existing initiatives while creating new and diverse programs that serve the different needs in our communities.”

A Director of Housing will be hired to begin the process of establishing the Commission. 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 Commission is expected to be up and running by April 1, 2022. At that time, Torngat Regional Housing Association (TRHA) will no longer receive funding from the Nunatsiavut Government for the provision of housing within the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area.

“It is important that we recognize the tremendous contribution TRHA has made over the course of nearly four decades in providing affordable and safe housing for Labrador Inuit,” says First Minister Edmunds. “We are confident that the new Commission will continue to build on the supports provided by TRHA while expanding housing opportunities in Nunatsiavut.”

In addition to accepting the work plan that will lead to the establishment of the Commission, the NEC also approved a total of \$7.5 million for land development for future housing.

Earlier this year, the Nunatsiavut Government was successful in receiving \$5.5 million under the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation’s Rapid Housing Initiative to construct seniors units in Nain and Hopedale, as well as an eight-room shelter in Hopedale. The Nunatsiavut Government has committed an additional \$3.5 million to these projects.

Since 2014, more than \$8 million has been spent to improve housing conditions in all Labrador Inuit communities under the Affordable Warmth Nunatsiavut Home Repair Program. Other ongoing initiatives include the High Efficiency Wood Stove Program, as well as exploring ways to make Labrador Inuit communities more energy secure.

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