

285 new public housing units going to Nunavut



Out of the 285 public housing units planned for construction, roughly 140 will be built using energy efficient structural insulated panels, seen here.

Feds earmark \$50 million for social housing

by Guy Quenneville
Northern News Services
Nunavut

The Nunavut Housing Corporation is gearing up to build 285 new public housing units in 2010-11.

In addition, the corporation will construct 62 new staff housing units, says Alain Barriault, president of the housing corp.

Early this year, the federal government earmarked \$50 million for the construction of public housing units in Nunavut.

The corporation will put up approximately \$13 million of its own money to fund the staff housing projects.

New pieces of infrastructure like the Inuit Cultural Learning Centre in Clyde River and the new correctional facility under construction in Rankin Inlet require the corporation to build new housing for staff, most of whom work for the Government of Nunavut.

The correctional facility, for instance, requires the construction of a new 33-unit

apartment building, accounting for more than half of the staff units to be built this year, said Barriault.

The corporation's core focus is to provide public housing units for Nunavut residents who have no home to call their own.

According to the corporation, the level of overcrowding in Nunavut is twice the national average.

How many units will be built in each community is based on demand, said Barriault.

In addition to creating new

housing, the housing corp. also creates Inuit employment in two ways – by stipulating that contractors taking on projects hire Inuit apprentices, and that they provide Red Seal journeyman to train those apprentices.

"This was a strategy that was presented by cabinet and accepted by cabinet a number of years back when the Nunavut Housing Trust was first being discussed," said Barriault.

"We really set a lot of parameters."

Please see **Wages**, page 13



We're building safety standards across the North.

COR™ Companies

Arcan Construction
Bassett Companies
Braden Burry
Expediting
Capital Transit Mix
Clark Builders
McCaw Drilling
Nahanni Construction
Nahanni Nunavut Construction Ltd.
NCVC
Northwestel
Rowe's Construction
RTL Robinson
Tli Cho Landran
Unico Roofing

Beginning COR™ Process

AECOM Canada
Atco Logistics
Buffalo Airways
Canadian Dewatering
Carter Industries
CCS Corporation
Central Mechanical
Chateau Nova
CJ Contracting
CN Doors/Fire Prevention
Concept Energy
DNX/Dyno Nobel
Dowland
Force One
Hazco Environmental
J&A Fire Protection
KBL Environmental
Konge Construction
Maskwa Engineering
Medic North
Murphy's Construction
NCC Developments
NCSA
Nexum Systems
NWT Construction
Oulliq Energy
Ruskin Construction Ltd.
Ryfan Electric
Shoppers DrugMart
Sub-Arctic Surveys
Taylor & Company
Tli Cho Logistics
Twilite Security
Weitzels Construction
Whiponic Wellputer
Williams Engineering



northern construction
SAFETY ASSOCIATION

E-Learning Training programs provide an excellent training alternative to the classroom.

Visit the NCSA's web site at: www.ncsa-nt.ca or www.ncsa.nu.ca

Tel: (867) 920-0763 Fax: (867) 920-0764 Email: safety@nwtca.ca

FROBUILD (2006) LTD.

Doing business with the North for the North

Providing quality service with a smile

Complete building & home improvement centre for the do-it-yourselfers & contractors.

No matter the size of your project, Frobuild (2006) Ltd. is the right choice when choosing building materials.

Everything you need for your home improvement projects

- power tools
- electrical supplies
- Hardwood flooring
- plumbing supplies
- light fixtures
- appliances

...and much more!

Proudly serving the Eastern Arctic with quality building products!



PHONE 1-867 979-6800

Fax 1-867 979-6878

Email tpfrobuild@northwestel.net

Wages firm for Nunavut's apprentices

285, from page 12

riault. "We had a two-fold purpose: one was to try to address the critical housing shortage; the other thing was, the way things had been done in the past, they go out to public tender and in most cases you get a company coming up from down south bringing all their workers with them, hire a few local labourers possibly, and leave once they were done.

"We were missing a big component on capacity building."

The housing corp. also held firm on the hourly rate paid to apprentices and journeymen, despite grumbings from some contractors who said the requirements meant they could not operate competitively.

"We've really set a lot of parameters that are concrete that couldn't be deviated

from," said Barriault, adding that paying Inuit minimum wage to work as labourers just doesn't cut it.

"You're going to have limited success doing that, in terms of attracting labour."

As of January, Nunavut had 54 registered apprentices working on Nunavut Housing Corp. projects.

Journeymen housing maintenance servicepersons and plumbers make \$27.82 an hour and \$32.51 an hour, respectively, to name only two positions.

Year one apprentices completing four-year apprenticeships make 50 per cent of their eventual journeyman hourly wage; final year apprentices completing a four-year apprenticeship make 80 per cent of their eventual journeyman hourly wage.

Current and future apprentices are coming online at just



photo courtesy of Nunavut Housing Corp.

The Nunavut Housing Corp. will use structurally insulated panels to build some of the 285 new public housing units planned for this year. In this picture, the assembly of a house in Ontario is demonstrated to invited Nunavut contractors, off-camera.

the right time, added Barriault.

"We have a lot of workers who will be retiring at some point," he said. "If we look at a lot of our housing organizations, for instance, we do have a lot of people who have probably been there 20-plus years. We're getting an aging workforce in a lot of places.

"There's lots of opportunities for employment. If we can train people so that they're in a position to take over these vacancies, then it's in our best interest to do so," said Barriault.

Combine the slew of impending retirements with a booming mineral exploration industry, and future and ongoing projects like the correctional facility and the new High Arctic Research Station (with Cambridge Bay, Resolute and Pond Inlet among potential locations) and there's no reason Nunavummiut should have to leave the North to find work in the trades.

"The situation in Nunavut

is such that people want to become journeyman to work within the territory generally. I don't think there's this situation where you're going to see a mass exit of people leaving the territory," said David Ittinuar, director of trades, mining and transportation programs for Nunavut Arctic College, which will administer the Nunavut Trades Training Centre, set to open this September.

Last year, the housing corp. built 203 public housing units.

Since 2007, under the Nunavut Housing Trust, the housing corp. has constructed a total of 735 units across 25 Nunavut communities.

This year, out of the 285 public housing units planned for construction, roughly 140 will be built using energy efficient structural insulated panels (SIPs) that will reduce fuel use by 50 per cent per unit, according to Barriault.

"This is the first year we're doing it," he said.

fact FILE

Nunavut public housing unit allocations by community 2010-2011

Community	Allocation	Community	Allocation
Iqaluit	20	Sanikiluaq	11
Baker Lake	20	Repulse Bay	11
Arviat	20	Hall Beach	10
Rankin Inlet	16	Coral Harbour	10
Igloolik	16	Arctic Bay	10
Pangnirtung	15	Qikiqtarjuaq	9
Pond Inlet	14	Kugaaruk	9
Cape Dorset	14	Kimmirut	5
Kugluktuk	13	Whale Cove	4
Taloyoak	12	Chesterfield Inlet	4
Gjoa Haven	12	Resolute Bay	3
Clyde River	12	Grise Fiord	3
Cambridge Bay	12	Total	285

Source: Nunavut Housing Corporation

fact FILE

Hourly rates on Nunavut Housing Corporation projects

Journeyman electrician	\$32.51
Journeyman plumber	\$32.51
Journeyman oil burner mechanic	\$32.51
Journeyman carpenter	\$31.28
Journeyman housing serviceperson	\$27.82

Apprentice hourly rates on Nunavut Housing Corporation projects

Depending on years of experience, apprentices make a percentage of a journeyman's full hourly pay rate.

Apprentices completing a three-year apprenticeship

Position	Percentage of hourly rate
Year one apprentice	55%
Year two apprentice	65%
Year three apprentice	80%

Apprentices completing a four-year apprenticeship

Position	Percentage of hourly rate
Year one apprentice	50%
Year two apprentice	60%
Year three apprentice	70%
Year four apprentice	80%

Source: Nunavut Housing Corporation

DIAMOND GLASS LTD.

100% Locally Owned and Operated

Automotive • Residential • Commercial

Guaranteed Quality Service by Trained Personnel!
FREE Estimates

After hours call Bryan Rendell at
867-873-1106 • Cell: 444-1119
329 Old Airport Rd. • Fax: (867) 873-3739
Box 1645, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P2

**24 Hour
Emergency Service**

867-873-9178

email: diamondglass@theedge.ca

Discovery Inn

Comfort and Convenience in North America's Diamond Capital

Serving our Northern communities along with the construction and resource industries.

Conveniently located downtown. Licenced family dining and kitchenettes.

Ask us about our Long-term, Corporate, Government & Group Rates.

Tel: 867-873-4151
Fax: 867-920-7948
Box 784, 4701 Franklin Ave,
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N6
E-mail: discovery2@arcticdata.nt.ca
Web: www.discoveryinn.ca