

ュュペート Διコーストィイから Nunavut Housing Corporation Nunavutmi Iglulirijirjuarkut Société d'habitation du Nunavut

Honourable George Kuksuk Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation PO Box 1200, Iqaluit NU X0A 0H0

May 17, 2017

# Nunavut Housing Corporation Letter of Expectation 2017-2018

Dear Minister Kuksuk:

Please find herein my response to Nunavut Housing Corporation's Letter of Expectation, which provided direction concerning the reporting responsibilities of the Corporation and outlined priorities and desired outcomes for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. On behalf of myself and the Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for the letter, and confirm its acceptance.

We agree that the Nunavut Housing Corporation plays an integral role in respect to the provision of housing in the territory, and that adequate and affordable housing is intricately linked to the health, education, and overall well-being of Nunavummiut.

Adequate housing that meets the needs of all individuals not only improves the health, both mental and physical, of families and communities, but is a significant contributor to economic growth and development, and can lead to increased self-reliance. Investment in housing also generates long-term cost savings in many other areas, including health care. Therefore, the responsibilities of the Nunavut Housing Corporation align with the vision of the future as outlined in *Sivumut Abluqta: Stepping Forward Together*, and the four priorities that will make Nunavut an even better place for our children and grandchildren:

- Self-reliance and optimism through education and training
- Healthy families through strong and resilient communities
- Economic growth through responsible development across all sectors
- Good government through wise use of resources

The development of the Government of Nunavut's Blueprint for Action on Housing marks an important step in the continued work of the NHC to address Nunavut's housing crisis. This includes the development of more energy efficient and economically responsible solutions and more diverse and affordable housing options for all Nunavummiut, including the growing elder population, as set out in Sivumut Ablugta.

In this first year of implementation of the Blueprint for Action, the NHC looks forward to leading other departments and agencies in increased collaboration through the Inuit Societal Value of Ikajuqtigiinniq: working together for a common cause.

As Chair of the Board of Directors, I recognize the importance of the GN's zero tolerance for harassment and bullying, and will continue to work to ensure that all employees, including the President, understand and follow the corresponding policy. The NHC has been taking steps to train not only NHC staff on the importance of a harassment free workplace, but also Local Housing Organization staff and Managers.

I also acknowledge my duty as Chair to ensure the full implementation of the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act* to ensure that all clients and employees can communicate in the language of their choice.

## **Expectations and Priorities for 2017-2018**

I am confident that all of your expectations, will be met and the priorities and directions outlined in the approved 2017-2018 business plan and budget will be adhered to.

## Advisory and Administrative Services

As the 2017-2018 year develops, the NHC will continue to prioritize ongoing support to Local Housing Organizations (LHOs), including the delivery of training and mentorship for Nunavut Inuit, and strengthening occupational health and safety through work with WSCC. As our front-line workers, the effectiveness and proper functioning of LHOs is a key priority for the Corporation.

## **Public Housing**

Nunavut's housing crisis is marked most significantly by severe overcrowding caused by a lack of housing stock. The NHC Board of Directors will continue to support the Corporation in its lobbying efforts to increase federal investment in housing in Nunavut. As the National Housing Strategy rolls out in fall 2017, the NHC will work closely with the federal government to ensure that Northern housing remains a key priority within the Strategy.

The Board of Directors is also committed to supporting Corporation and LHO staff in their rent and arears collection efforts, as well as the implementation of LHO deficit recovery plans.

# Staff Housing

This year, the NHC is leading a full review of the Government of Nunavut Staff Housing Policy, to improve Staff Housing operations, and offer recommendations for alternative options to meet the housing needs of GN employees. Meeting the needs of GN employees will be critical not only for recruitment and retention of GN staff, but also in the GN's efforts to meet its Inuit employment targets under Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement

#### Homeownership

The Board of Directors supports the continued implementation and promotion of the NHC's suite of Homeownership programs, which help Nunavummiut in purchasing and maintaining a home. Homeownership is an important part of a full housing continuum, and efforts to make homeownership more achievable are valuable in addressing the housing crisis.

Please expect regular updates on all business plan priorities to meet the goal of improving accountability and transparency.

#### Accountability and Financial Management Reporting Expectation for 2017-2018 Fiscal Year

The Board will ensure the Corporation continues to satisfy its tabling requirements, including submission of its Business Plan for inclusion in the GN's Business Plan; its Annual Contracting Report and the Corporation's Annual Report as per Part IX of the *Financial Administration Act*.

The NHC remains committed to fulfilling reporting responsibilities through the Department of Finance, including providing budget variance reports and expense projections for operations and maintenance and capital approved by the board on at least a quarterly basis.

The NHC will also work with the Department of Finance to continue the implementation of the quarterly reporting system to closely monitor and report on projects that utilize funding the NHC has received from the CMHC, including the funding announced in the 2017 Federal Budget.

In the spirit of strengthening Nunavut's public agencies, the NHC will continue its close working relationship with the Department of Finance at all levels, to ensure an effective flow of both formal and informal information.

I look forward to discussing with you the Nunavut Housing Corporation's progress in addressing the priorities and directions as stated in the 2017-2018 Letter of Expectation.

Sincerely,

Bob Leonard,

Chairperson, Nunavut Housing Corporation Board of Director

Cc: Jeff Chown, Deputy Minister, Department of Finance Terry Audla, President and CEO, Nunavut Housing Corporation