



PRESS RELEASE



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Federal Government Renovation Funds Address Housing Needs in the Yukon

WHITEHORSE, Yukon, May 17, 2004 — The three year extension of the Federal Government's repair and renovation programs, totalling approximately \$2.1 million, will help low-income seniors and homeowners, persons with disabilities and Aboriginal people in the Yukon territory live in safer, more accessible and better quality homes. Funding is also available to improve emergency shelters and transitional housing for victims of family violence.

The announcement was made today by the Honourable Larry Bagnell, MP for the Yukon Territory, on behalf of Andy Scott, Minister of State (Infrastructure) and Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

"The Government of Canada, through CMHC, is committed to rehabilitating housing for low income households, as well as providing options to help our aging population and persons with disabilities live independently," said Mr. Bagnell. "This is an important part of our national affordable housing strategy to preserve and enhance the existing housing stock. It is also an effective and responsible way of supporting sustainable development through the rehabilitation of existing buildings."

In 2003 - 2004, CMHC committed approximately \$690,000 in funding to assist some 50 Yukon households through its various Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Programs (RRAP), Home Adaptations for Seniors Independence Program (HASI) and Emergency Repair Program (ERP).

The funding continues RRAP's 30-year legacy of meeting the housing needs of Canadians. RRAP is a cornerstone of Canada's national housing policy and is part of the Government of Canada's national housing strategy, which includes a \$1 billion federal investment in affordable housing.

In addition to this funding, the Federal Government, through CMHC, annually provides approximately \$8.6 million in grants, contributions and subsidies which primarily support some 1,200 lower-income families, seniors, persons with disabilities, Aboriginal people and victims of family violence. It has also allocated \$5.5 million in funding for new affordable housing under the Canada-Yukon Affordable Housing Agreement.

CMHC is actively seeking new applications for funding for its repair and renovation programs for the fiscal year 2004/2005. For more information, contact CMHC's Yukon Office at 867-633-7542 or visit our Web site at www.cmhc.ca.

For more information:

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RRAP announcement in Whitehorse, Yukon May 17, 2004
MP Larry Bagnell

Fact Sheet — Renovation Programs

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's existing renovation programs, which help low-income Canadians, were extended by \$384 million. Improvements to the federal renovation programs were implemented recently to ensure the program is more effective in serving those most in need, including low income Canadians living in substandard housing, Aboriginal people, seniors, persons with disabilities and victims of family violence. The changes were made following consultations and an extensive evaluation of the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP).

The changes include an increase in maximum program assistance levels to reflect current housing renovation costs. All assistance approved through the programs is now fully forgivable. Improvements also include a change in the calculation of total household income in recognition of the additional costs faced by persons with disabilities.

Program Details

Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) for Homeowners

This program provides financial assistance to low-income homeowners, who own and occupy housing, to enable them to repair their dwellings to meet a minimum level of health and safety. The maximum assistance available is \$24,000 per household.

Rental/Rooming House RRAP

This program provides assistance to landlords of affordable housing to pay for mandatory repairs to units and beds occupied by low-income tenants. The maximum assistance available is \$36,000 per unit and \$24,000 per bed.

Shelter Enhancement Program

The program assists in repairing, rehabilitating and improving existing shelters for victims of family violence; and in acquiring or building new shelters and second-stage housing where needed.

Conversion RRAP

This program provides financial assistance for the conversion of non-residential property into units or beds to create affordable housing for low-income households. The maximum assistance available is \$36,000 per unit and \$24,000 per bed.

Emergency Repair Program

This program provides assistance to low-income homeowners or occupants in rural areas to undertake emergency repairs required for the continued safe occupancy of their homes. The maximum assistance available is \$11,000.

RRAP for Persons with Disabilities

This program offers financial assistance to homeowners and landlords to undertake accessibility work to modify dwellings occupied or intended for occupancy by low-income persons with disabilities. The maximum assistance for rental properties is \$36,000 per unit, and for homeowners and rooming-houses it is \$24,000.

Home Adaptations for Seniors Independence (HASI)

This program provides assistance of up to \$3,500 to homeowners and landlords to pay for minor home adaptations that will enable low-income seniors to live independently in their homes.