



PRESS RELEASE



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New Rental Housing Open Today in Michipicoten First Nation

WAWA, Ontario, June 17, 2005 — Migizi Suswin (Eagle's Nest), a new 10-unit complex overlooking Lake Superior, officially opened today and will be the new home to the Michipicoten First Nation Elders.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) provided funding of \$1.34 million and more than \$1.3 million in equity was received from the Michipicoten First Nation. Capital funding of \$226,500 was also provided by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Under the On-Reserve Non-Profit Housing Program, CMHC is also providing an annual planned subsidy of \$90,971 for 25 years.

The funding also assisted Michipicoten First Nation in constructing five single detached bungalows for band members, for a total of 15 units. All of the structures were built by band members using innovative construction techniques and materials, including insulated concrete forms, and in-floor hot water heating in the Migizi Suswin 10-plex.

Michipicoten First Nations' Chief Joe Buckell; Elder Mary Hache, and members of the community participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Band Councillors Kathryn Campbell, Myrtle Swanson, Irene Piche, William Swanson, Emile Neyland, Denise Churchill, and Band Manager Clayton Kennedy were also in attendance to celebrate this event.

"The construction of these units marks an important step forward for the people of the Michipicoten First Nation community," said Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing Member of Parliament Brent St. Denis. "The Government of Canada is proud to partner with the members of this community, and they are to be applauded for bringing this project to fruition."

"This project has brought a change in the quality of life for our Elders," said Chief Joe Buckell. "The lake setting is both peaceful and relaxing. It is a compliment to our community."

The Michipicoten First Nation is located on Lake Superior near the town of Wawa, approximately 200 kilometres north of Sault Ste Marie. The First Nation has more than 700 registered members with the majority living in communities in the region and in the cities of Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay. At present, 60 members reside on the reserve.

CMHC's Section 95 On-Reserve Non-Profit Rental Housing Program assists First Nations in the construction, purchase and rehabilitation, and administration of quality housing for Aboriginal people living on-reserve.

CMHC provides approximately \$120 million in on-reserve funding each year to support some 25,000 units on behalf of the Government of Canada. CMHC is also encouraging more homeownership on-reserve through mortgage loan insurance.

CMHC is Canada's national housing agency with a mandate to help Canadians gain access to safe, quality, and affordable housing. CMHC supports the Canadian housing industry and improves the living conditions of Canadians through mortgage loan insurance and securitization, assisted housing, research and information transfer, and the

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promotion of Canadian housing exports.

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