



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **New Residence Opens for Nautkamegwaning First Nation Elders**

**KENORA, Ontario, June 08, 2009** — Mr. Greg Rickford, Member of Parliament for Kenora, joined with Nautkamegwaning First Nation and Chief Warren White to celebrate the grand opening of a new 10-unit seniors residence today, which was officially opened by Chief Warren White and will be home to more than 30 elders.

“The Government of Canada is committed to creating safe and affordable housing for Aboriginal people in Ontario and across the country.” said MP Rickford, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). “This project provides area elders with access to safe, quality housing at an affordable cost.”

CMHC provided a housing loan of \$1,064,000 to facilitate the construction of this seniors residence. CMHC will also provide housing subsidies for this project, which are estimated at \$2.1 million over the term of the 25-year loan agreement.

“It’s been a long, prosperous journey and now we can express the wishes that our elders voiced years ago to develop a seniors residence in Nautkamegwaning First Nation,” said Chief White. “Through hard work, determination and negotiations with CMHC, it has become the greatest accomplishment for our community. We’re a community that believes dreams can become reality when we work very hard to achieve them.”

CMHC's On-Reserve Non-Profit Housing Program assists First Nations in the purchase, construction, rehabilitation and administration of affordable on-reserve rental housing, and provides subsidies for First Nations people living on-reserve. The Government of Canada provides approximately \$270 million in on-reserve funding each year to address housing need.

In April, the Government of Canada announced as part of *Canada’s Economic Action Plan* that it is providing \$400 million in additional funding over the next two years to support on-reserve housing. These funds are dedicated to new social housing projects, the remediation of existing social housing and complementary housing activities through programming from CMHC and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC). This funding will also provide an economic stimulus for many First Nations and rural areas by creating jobs, developing skilled trades and supporting small businesses.

As Canada’s national housing agency, CMHC draws on more than 60 years of experience to help Canadians access a variety of quality, environmentally sustainable, and affordable homes — homes that will continue to create vibrant and healthy communities and cities across the country.

For more information, call 1-800-668-2642.

**For more information, please contact:**

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