

PRESS RELEASE



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*Plan Nord*

**THE QUÉBEC GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES THE INTRODUCTION OF A  
HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM FOR THE NUNAVIK POPULATION**

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**Québec City, June 8, 2012.** – To mark Housing Pride Day in Nunavik, Mr. Laurent Lessard, who is Québec’s Minister of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy and Minister Responsible for the Société d’habitation du Québec (SHQ), and Mr. Geoffrey Kelley, Minister Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, unveiled the conditions of a new Program to Promote Home Ownership and Renovation in the Kativik Region. The Program, prepared by the SHQ and administered in the region by the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau, will allow for the production of 200 private dwellings in the Nunavik region.

The Program costs for the next five years are estimated at more than \$68 million, \$63 million of which will be used to build or acquire dwellings, and \$5 million for occupancy assistance, a recurrent financial assistance for the payment of municipal taxes and home insurance premiums.

“The Québec Government is aware of the urgent need for housing in Nunavik,” said Minister Lessard. “As part of the Plan Nord, we have therefore introduced an initiative that will allow us to work in partnership with the Inuit people to create social development tools and programs tailored to their needs. As a result, they will be able to improve their living conditions.”

Not only will the Program help the Inuit to purchase homes and build new residential or rental properties, but it will also educate households on matters relating to property ownership and maintenance, and provide them with support. It includes a financial assistance component to reduce occupancy costs, as well as assistance with the renovation of private homes purchased before it came into force.

“For the Inuit people, compensating for the shortage of homes in the North is a priority,” said Minister Kelley. “The Québec Government has heard their message. The new Home Ownership Program is yet another measure that will help make residential property more accessible to the Northern Village populations. As a result, more social dwellings will be available to families in need. In particular, I would like to mention the work done by Andy Moorhouse, co-chair of the Inuit housing task force, which has allowed us to announce 500 additional homes.”

**The Québec Government's housing interventions in Nunavik**

The Québec Government relies on the SHQ's unique expertise to meet Nunavik's pressing housing needs. In collaboration with its partners, the SHQ supports the production, renovation and management of nearly 2,400 social dwellings in Nunavik's 14 villages. In addition, it plays a leading role in the implementation of the Plan Nord, which will result in the construction of 300 dwellings in addition to the 200 announced here, as well as the renovation of 482 dwellings by 2016.

For further information on the SHQ's programs and services, please visit [www.habitation.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.habitation.gouv.qc.ca).

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