

February 16, 2012

**RENOVATION OF MANITOBA HOUSING UNITS  
BEGINS IN MOOSE LAKE AND CORMORANT**

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**Residents' Safety and Comfort  
To Be Enhanced in Renovated Housing: Minister**

A \$1.8-million upgrade of 68 Manitoba housing units in the communities of Moose Lake and Cormorant will provide tenants with better quality housing, Housing and Community Development Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross announced today.

"Manitobans deserve safe and affordable accommodations in quality settings," said Irvin-Ross. "The improvements we're making will maintain and improve our provincial housing stock and ensure tenant comfort and safety, while enhancing the communities of Moose Lake and Cormorant."

Manitoba Housing has approved the renovation of 40 housing units in Moose Lake and 28 in Cormorant. Renovations include an energy-efficiency upgrade, the replacement of furnace heating components, appliances, doors and windows, and exterior insulation. Work on the homes is expected to be complete by spring 2013.

As set out in a memorandum of understanding signed in March 2011, the provincial government and Opaskwayak Cree Nation continue to work closely on a number of initiatives to address priority issues of the First Nation, Irvin-Ross said. The Opaskwayak Cree Nation Housing Authority Inc., with assistance from the provincial government, will hire and train local carpentry, electrical and plumbing apprentices.

"By using the skills of locally trained residents in northern and rural communities, the projects in Moose Lake and Cormorant may be used as a model for developing tradespeople for future maintenance and repair of rural and northern housing," said Frank Whitehead, MLA for The Pas, on behalf of Irvin-Ross, at an event on the Opaskwayak Cree Nation today. "Increasing the pool of trained building construction and maintenance professionals is a positive step for northern communities. Having access to trained, local professionals will allow for faster delivery of repairs and maintenance in these communities."

Through Manitoba's long-term housing strategy, HOMEWorks! which was introduced in 2009, the Province of Manitoba, with the financial assistance of the Government of Canada continues to make significant investments in the development of social and affordable housing. The province promised the delivery of 1,500 affordable housing units across the province and has already committed to the development of over 900 units. HOMEWorks! supports ALL Aboard, Manitoba's poverty reduction strategy, by increasing the supply of quality affordable housing for low-income Manitobans. More information about HOMEWorks! is available at [www.gov.mb.ca/housing](http://www.gov.mb.ca/housing).