

Gignul

Non-Profit Housing Corporation

396 McLaren Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 0M8

MEDIA RELEASE

Ottawa, November 20, 2009 - For Immediate Release

A Breakthrough: Affordable Housing Funding Approved

The Honourable Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for Ontario, was at the Odawa Native Friendship Centre in Ottawa today to announce the release funding for two local Aboriginal housing organizations to build a number of affordable housing units for Aboriginal peoples in the city.

Mr. Watson was joined by representatives from the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Support Services Corporation (OAHSSC), who administer Ontario's share of money provided by the federal government under the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Trust Fund and serves Aboriginal Housing corporations outside of the Greater Toronto Area.

Gignul Non Profit Housing Corporation (GNPHC) is finalizing a Partnership Agreement with the OAHSSC, which will provide \$4,752,425 to support the land acquisition and construction of a 28 unit affordable housing apartment complex in Ottawa.

GNPHC is a not-for-profit Aboriginal Housing corporation established in 1985 to provide assisted housing to Aboriginal families and individuals in the city. Gignul receives federal operating subsidies administered by the Ottawa Housing Branch to support their ownership and operation of 162 housing units in 73 buildings scattered throughout the city.

Jim Lanigan, President of GNPHC said, "I am extremely pleased that our organization has been selected as a recipient of some of the Aboriginal Housing Trust monies. This will help Gignul acquire safe, decent housing that our people can afford". He said the money will help a bit in addressing the need for quality housing by Aboriginal peoples in Ottawa, pointing out that there are some 250 families on Gignul's waiting list.

Mr. Lanigan stated, "Our Board has remained strong and consistent in its vision of safe, adequate and affordable housing for Aboriginal families and individuals in Ottawa, and the staff maintains a high standard of performance. Over the past 25 years, Gignul has become the organization that our community counts on to help meet their need for affordable housing."

Mr. Watson also announced that Tungasuvvingat, the Inuit Housing Corporation in Ottawa will also be provided with \$1,780,000 to construct 12 affordable housing units for Inuit in the city.

In thanking Mr. Watson and the OAHSSC representatives, Mr. Lanigan said, "Much remains to be done to achieve parity in housing for Aboriginal peoples, but with good policies at all levels, sufficient resources and a willingness to continue to work together in harmony, this can be accomplished."

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MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

Ottawa, November 20, 2009

Gignul Non Profit Housing Corporation (GNPHC) was established in Ottawa in 1985 as a not-for-profit Aboriginal Housing corporation to provide assisted housing to Aboriginal families and individuals in the city. The Aboriginal population in Ottawa and surrounding urban areas is about 35,000.

Initially, subsidy funding for social housing was provided directly by CMHC, until their Urban Native Housing Program and their Rural and Native Housing Program was downloaded to the provinces, beginning in 1996.

In Ontario, the download agreement was put into effect in 2000, then it was in turn downloaded by the province to the municipalities.

Gignul continues to receive federal operating subsidies which are now administered by the Ottawa Housing Branch to support their ownership and operation of 162 housing units in 73 buildings scattered throughout the city.

The corporation provides service to approximately persons, but there are about 250 families on the current waiting list.

The Ontario Aboriginal Housing Support Services Corporation (OAHSSC) was set up after the download, with an agreement directly with the province to deliver the Rural and Native Housing Program.

The 42 Urban Aboriginal Housing Corporations in Ontario had been arguing for Aboriginal control over Aboriginal Housing for a number of years.

In 2006, Canada provided \$300 Million through Off-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Trust Fund. Ontario's share was \$80.2 Million.

Ontario allocated \$20 Million of this to the GTA, with the other \$60 Million for the rest of the province.

After consultation arranged by the province with the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, the Metis Nation of Ontario, and the Native Women's Association of Ontario, the province agreed that the OAHSSC would serve as the delivery agency for the Off-Reserve Housing Trust monies.

To distribute the \$60 Million, the OAHSSC put out a RFP, stating that an initial distribution would be provided to those Urban Aboriginal Housing Corporations who already had plans for constructing units prepared – shovel ready, so to speak.

Gignul being one of those with plans already laid out, qualified and was selected.

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