

District Office Profile – Sahtu



Philip Bailey and Chris Greek are well known throughout the Sahtu region because of the work they do for the Sahtu District Office. Together with District Director Susan Spring and the rest of the Sahtu District office staff they work hard to deliver Northwest Territories Housing Corporation programs throughout the region.

The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation's Sahtu District Office is one of the five District Offices that deliver the Corporation's housing programs and services in the NWT. The Sahtu District Office is located in Norman Wells. The Sahtu District Office serves the communities of Colville Lake, Déline, Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells and Tulita. Our Local Housing Organization (LHO) partners in the Sahtu include: the Déline Housing Association, the Norman Wells Housing Authority, the Radilih Koe Housing Association (Fort Good Hope) and the Tulita Housing Association.

The Sahtu region is beautiful yet its environment can be unforgiving, making the delivery of housing in this region a challenge at times. In addition to the extreme cold temperatures that must be contented with, like many communities in the NWT, the communities in the Sahtu can only be reached by air, boat or winter road. The Corporation's District Office relies on the summer river barge service and winter roads to deliver its material and supplies to the communities.

The Director of the Corporation's Sahtu District Office, Susan Spring, joined the Corporation in March 2007. Susan has been working in the area of housing since 1993 and came to us from Nunavut, where she was working with the Iqaluit Housing Authority, although she is originally from the NWT and spent all of her formative years in the NWT. The Sahtu District is gorgeous and it's growing. The Sahtu is ready for the Mackenzie Valley Gas Project and other important initiatives

and Director Susan Spring sees tremendous opportunity for growth, development and independence: "For example, Déline is moving towards self-government and Tulita is coming of age under the New Deal for Communities and is taking on increasing responsibility for land development, so that new housing can be built."

In addition to its Director, the Sahtu District Office has a current complement of nine staff members. Susan is excited about being supported by a team of people committed to the work they do: "The District Office is now fully staffed – with a very dynamic and competent staff who are working hard to correct historic difficulties while moving forward."

The staff in the Sahtu District Office are a great team – both in the office and out. "We've got a ball team, a golf team, and are working together to build a shed", says Susan, "These are people who are really dedicated to housing and who like coming to work. We are forging ahead, feeling optimistic!"

The Sahtu District Office is on top of its delivery of housing units under the Affordable Housing Initiative. "The Sahtu District Office is very close to the target number," reports Susan. This devoted staff helps to provide safe and affordable housing to the people of the Sahtu. The District also manages 254 public housing units, 47 Homeownership Entry Level Program/Supported Lease units and 19 market housing units. The District also provides support to 70 mortgage clients.

The District staff is in frequent contact with their community partners at the LHOs. All District staff provide support to LHOs as they advance their property management roles in the delivery the public housing program in the Sahtu communities. The Sahtu also has a Technical Officer who is dedicated to supporting the LHOs maintenance functions such as upgrading and strengthening MMOS computer systems and maintenance management areas.

Many of the Sahtu District staff are long-term northerners. Most of the staff have less than three years of service in the District Office, but they are about to celebrate one staff member receiving a 5-year long service award. Having continuity in the District Office makes a tremendous difference. Staff are optimistic that the work is manageable and that they can really make a difference.