

OFFICE PROFILE: INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation's Infrastructure Services division is responsible for the planning and delivery of our capital infrastructure. This includes land acquisition, design of infrastructure and renovations, and maintenance activities for all assets that are NWT HC owned, construction of new assets -- including affordable and public housing programs. Other responsibilities include the implementation of energy efficiency projects, including biomass and solar, registering mortgages with land titles, capital planning, lands planning, and management of materials, research and development, and maintenance management. The division also offers support to trades training and housing for staff.

New Construction

During the 2014-15 fiscal year, Infrastructure Services procured 33 modular homes for the delivery of affordable housing in rural and remote communities. Construction began on the Joe Greenland senior's center in Aklavik and contracts were awarded for three seniors' projects in Fort Liard, Fort McPherson and Fort Good Hope. Each project will be a 9-plex building, consisting of eight bedrooms and one for a building caretaker. A contract was awarded for the 19-plex to be built in Yellowknife, and a 17-unit complex for public housing was awarded in Inuvik and construction is underway.

Energy

In 2014-15 the NWT HC is investing in alternative energy projects such as solar and biomass in multi-unit buildings as well as energy upgrades in public housing in various communities. Investments in solar energy are a cost reduction effort. A photovoltaic (PV) solar panel system was installed in Hay River's Whispering Willow. This PV system provides power to the main components of the building and is expected to offset up to 70% of the power. Solar installation will also be part of the seniors facilities planned for Fort Liard, Fort McPherson and Fort Good Hope. Additionally, there are bio mass projects in Dettah, N'dilo and Fort Resolution. Bio mass is a heating system that burns wood pellets. It is carbon neutral to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The NWT HC, in partnership with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), signed on for an extension to continue the monitoring of the Northern Sustainable House in Inuvik. The Infrastructure Services division also engaged CMHC for a retrofit strategy that would help to determine the decisions that will need to be made to renovate NWT HC assets to meet energy efficiency standards.

Maintenance

To improve its maintenance activities, the NWT HC recently replaced their maintenance management software with an online centralized version (web work) for use by all Local Housing Organizations (LHOs). Web work allows the NWT HC to assign and track maintenance activities and provide improved reporting on maintenance activities on a timely basis.

The NWT HC recognizes that the new system requires ongoing support to be successful. The NWT HC will continue to support the LHOs by offering additional training to those who require it.