

Solutions and Priorities

The *Agreement respecting the Implementation of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement on Housing in Nunavik* signed by Canada, Québec, the Makivik Corporation, the Kativik Regional Government and the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau in 2000 and renewed subsequently for five-year periods is helping alleviate the housing shortage. The construction of 50 additional units was also announced by Québec at the 2007 Katimajit Conference on Nunavik socio-economic issues. The ongoing renewal of the *Agreement respecting the Implementation of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement on Housing in Nunavik* is essential.

In addition to existing government commitments, a construction catch-up program is needed to meet current demand.

Under the 2007 Plan québécois des infrastructures, funding for the replacement, improvement and modernization of existing social housing in the region increased from \$53 million to \$135 million from 2008 to 2010. The ongoing renewal of this funding is vital.

The northern villages require additional funding to ensure the delivery of municipal services for newly constructed housing through amendments to the *Agreement concerning the Block Funding for the Northern Villages of the Kativik Region*.

An adequate supply of electricity and heating oil to meet the demand created by increased housing and a growing population must be ensured.

In the context of rapid climate change, technical assistance is needed to identify new sites for housing development.

Changing housing needs must be monitored to identify trends regarding the number, type and size of units required.

Plan Nunavik pre-condition 1: Québec has to commit to a catch-up program (1000 units) and to the regular housing program for Nunavik.

Discussion

Access to adequate and affordable housing continues to be a challenge. The recently announced Program to Promote Home Ownership and Renovation in the Kativik Region suggests that governments will more and more seek the financial participation of individuals to resolve the housing crisis. Many obstacles to a viable private housing market nonetheless remain. What else can Nunavimmiut still contribute to the resolution of this situation?

