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- Bringing innovative housing ideas to the market, 1
- Northern Telecom sale to Japan, 2
- Ministers meet with US counterparts, 3
- Canada signs prisoner convention, 3
- Funds for Mali project, 3
- Canada supports open international trading environment, 4
- News prizes, 6
- Maps track Canada's history, 6
- Curlers sweep to title, 6
- Major research contract to help boost Canadian crop yields, 6
- News of the arts — acquisition, films, 7
- News briefs, 8

Bringing innovative housing ideas to the market

Innovative and practical ideas to improve the utility and performance of housing have been researched and, in some cases, are being brought to market with support from a Canada Mortgage and Housing (CMHC) program.

The housing technology incentives program (HTIP) provides funds of up to \$15 000 to Canadian companies or individuals for the development of original products or building methods that improve housing and living conditions in Canada.

A proposal is most likely to qualify for such funding if it suggests a new idea, product or method that:

- has the potential to improve the choice, the quality and the costs of housing;
- provides an economical solution to an existing technical problem associated with housing;
- appears to be of general benefit to housing builders or residents; and
- is likely to meet the provisions of applicable national, provincial or municipal codes and standards.

The program was initiated as a pilot

project by CMHC in September 1980, and as a result of the enthusiastic response to it was established as a regular program in 1981.

Small projects funded

For CMHC, the incentives program represents a shift away from the funding of major demonstration projects to support of small research projects by a relatively large cross-section of the housing and building product industries. The program allows many innovations covering a wide range of applications in the housing industry to be evaluated in a relatively short time.

HTIP supports proposals from the doers and planners in the housing field who are aware of what is available and what is required and therefore are most likely to generate new practical products and methods. For small companies without research and development funds, HTIP often means the difference between testing an improvement or a new idea or making do with the existing product.

Once a project is approved for funding, the applicant signs a contract with



Among the projects supported by the housing technology incentives program is this moulded fibreglass house believed to be low cost and energy efficient.



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