

Native Council of Canada, *Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence*, Issue No. 16:5)

The NCC was also concerned that the allocations in some areas could be reduced so much by the cuts, that there would not be enough units to support the involvement of a native delivery agent. (*Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence*, Issue No. 16:26)

THE NORTH

In the NWT, both CMHC and GNWT provide housing programs. Eight percent of the annual budget is devoted by GNWT to housing. The HAP program, offering home ownership to clients on a self-build basis, is an example of a NWTHC program. The NWTHC is also responsible for delivering housing programs to Indian people in the NWT.

Programs are delivered to Inuit people in NWT by NWTHC, in Nunavik (northern Quebec) by the SHQ, and in Labrador by the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation and the Torngak Regional Housing Association.

In the NWT, housing authorities in each community manage public housing on behalf of the NWTHC. In Iqaluit, for example, the Iqaluit Housing Authority manages 358 units. One thousand, four hundred and fifty of the 3,300 people in Iqaluit live in public housing, 95% of whom are Inuit (*Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence*, Issue No. 28A:45)

Issues emphasized by witnesses include the critical shortage of units, the lengthy waiting lists for public housing, overcrowding, inadequate infrastructure and the lack of funds to address these problems. Population growth at a much higher average rate than in the rest of Canada exacerbates the situation.⁹ Statistics Canada

data shows that housing quality in the North is lower than in the rest of Canada, and overcrowding is higher.¹⁰

In the NWT, a 1992 survey showed that:¹¹

of 14,536 households surveyed (90% of occupied units), 5,733 reported some form of housing problem.

3,584 households are eligible for financial assistance (in core need). One thousand four hundred ninety-five had a suitability problem, 1,125 an adequacy problem, 188 an affordability problem and 776 had more than one type of problem)

The 1990 needs survey showed the total social housing need at 3,136 units.

The Hon. Don Morin, Minister responsible for the NWTHC told the Committee that 44% of households in NWT are in need of housing assistance as compared to 14% in the South.

Except in larger communities like Yellowknife, there is no private housing market. People cannot afford their own homes—housing costs are prohibitive.

Even where private housing exists, rents of \$1,200 to \$1,500 a month are common. (*Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence*, Issue No. 28A:56) In Rankin Inlet, a representative of the housing association there said private housing costs \$2,500 a month to rent in that community. "Most of our tenants do not even earn that much." (*Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence*, Issue No. 28A:120)

The Minister noted that the backlog is critical because "we don't enjoy the luxury of having an old stock of houses we can repair. We're talking about getting people out of snow banks and tents and into some sort of housing. It's a basic, basic need." (*Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence*, Issue No. 26:27)

A particular problem is the lack of housing for students. In Iqaluit, Ms. Lynn Hirshman, Director of Social Services commented that students are denied an education because student housing is full.