



**Saskatchewan
Housing
Corporation**

An Agency of
Social Services

President

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Ref: #1731JD(123-11)

March 15, 2011

Mr. Robert Woods, Chair
New North – Saskatchewan Association of Northern Communities
207 La Ronge Avenue, Box 1018
LA RONGE SK S0J 1L0

Dear Mr. Woods:

Thank you for your February 18, 2011, regarding housing in Saskatchewan's northern communities. Honourable June Draude, Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC), requested that I reply on her behalf.

SHC recognizes that the north is unique and that housing issues are often magnified in northern communities. SHC also understands your concerns about the Housing Strategy's timeframe. I would like to emphasize, however, that while the goal is to have the Strategy complete by the end of June 2011, the implementation of the strategy will span eight years. During this eight-year implementation process, discussions and consultations will continue to take place with all stakeholders across the province. These discussions will guide the further development of the Strategy as it is implemented. SHC sees New North as a key contributor in this process and hopes to see representatives from your association participate in the consultations that will be happening in your community.

Regarding your request to have an official from SHC sit on the Northern Human Services Partnership's Housing Committee, as I understand, Roger Parenteau, Director, Housing Authority and Northern Services, has indicated to New North that SHC would consider this request if the committee developed the mandate of the committee, including its objectives. Upon updates to the mandate, SHC would determine if an official would participate on a permanent basis.

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Thank you again for writing. I would like to reiterate that SHC is aware that housing needs in the north are distinct compared to the rest of the province and this difference is being considered as we move forward in developing the Housing Strategy.

Sincerely,



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Don Allen
President

cc: Honourable June Draude, Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Housing Corporation
Roger Parenteau, Director, Housing Authority and Northern Services
Shauna Wouters, Director, Housing Policy, Strategic Policy Branch