



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON  
HOUSING**

between the

**INUVIALUIT REGIONAL CORPORATION (IRC)**

and

**HOUSING NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (HNWT)**

(individually referred to as a "Party" and, collectively, as the "Parties")

**June 18, 2026**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 IRC represents the collective interests of Inuvialuit and is responsible for the management of the compensation and benefits received by the Inuvialuit pursuant to the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA)*.
- 1.2 Aklavik, Inuvik, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Tuktoyaktuk, and Ulukhaktok are recognized in the IFA as Inuvialuit communities ("**Inuvialuit Communities**").
- 1.3 Housing supply and quality are under increasing pressure in Inuvialuit Communities.
- 1.4 The mission of Housing NWT is to increase the well-being of individuals and communities by providing fair access to quality housing support for people most in need.
- 1.5 Effective collaboration between IRC and Housing NWT will improve the allocation of resources and alignment of efforts to support the timely development and delivery of housing in Inuvialuit Communities.

## 2. GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP

- 2.1 The Parties will work to facilitate the maintenance and continued development of a positive and progressive government-to-government relationship.
- 2.2 By entering into this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Housing, Housing NWT seeks to further its corporate value of reconciliation and to facilitate the exercise of the established rights of the Inuvialuit.
- 2.3 The Parties are committed to implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* within the constitutional framework of Canada.

### **3. INTERGOVERNMENTAL HOUSING MOU**

- 3.1 Building on the objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Northwest Territories Council of Leaders, the Parties of this MOU commit to promoting positive and productive working relations to advance mutual housing priorities.
- 3.2 This MOU reinforces a joint commitment to work cooperatively in establishing timely, predictable, transparent, and accountable processes for meeting obligations and for developing goals and actions under each Parties' housing priorities.
- 3.3 This MOU is to be read with and interpreted in a manner consistent with all applicable statutes and does not create any new legal powers or duties, or fetter in any way, the jurisdiction, powers and duties of the Parties.

### **4. VENUE FOR COOPERATIVE DISCUSSIONS ON HOUSING**

- 4.1 As soon as practicable after the approval of this MOU on Housing, the IRC and Housing NWT will establish a working group to be the primary venue for cooperative discussions and for coordinating efforts on housing issues under this MOU.
- 4.2 The IRC designates its Director of Infrastructure as its lead official for purposes of this MOU.
- 4.3 Housing NWT designates its President and CEO as its lead official for purposes of this MOU.
- 4.4 A Party may invite other staff and advisors, including elders, youth and/or company employees, to attend meetings of the housing working group where possible.
- 4.5 Unless otherwise agreed, the housing working group established under this MOU will meet no less than four (4) times per year.
- 4.6 The Parties aim to promote open and frequent communication, as required, between their respective officials outside of the housing working group to advance the shared interests under this MOU, and consistent with the Public Communications Protocol referred to in section 9.

## **5. HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING**

- 5.1 Housing NWT supports the creation of Community Housing Plans for communities in the Northwest Territories. A Community Housing Plan is a strategic document prepared with input from community members and considers social, cultural, economic, environmental, and other impacts on the housing situation in that community to better understand current and future housing needs.
- 5.2 The Parties will collaborate and share information to avoid duplicating efforts, and to maximize the benefits arising from each parties' planning processes.

## **6. PROCUREMENT**

- 6.1 The procurement for developing housing and housing-related infrastructure in Inuvialuit Communities by Housing NWT is subject to the applicable provisions of the *IFA* and the Inuvialuit Business List.
- 6.2 The procurement for developing housing and housing-related infrastructure by Housing NWT is subject to GNWT procurement policies.

## **7. COORDINATED PROGRAM DELIVERY IN INUVIALUIT COMMUNITIES**

- 7.1 The IRC and Housing NWT share the objective of coordinating their respective housing-related program delivery in Inuvialuit Communities and maximizing their collective efforts to address housing needs in the region for Inuvialuit Beneficiaries.
- 7.2 The Parties recognize the need to coordinate and collaborate with the Gwich'in Tribal Council in the communities of Aklavik and Inuvik.
- 7.3 The IRC and Housing NWT may take joint actions in Inuvialuit Communities and for the benefit of Inuvialuit beneficiaries, including but not limited to:
- (a) coordinating land acquisition and planning;
  - (b) coordinating planning, construction, repair, maintenance and renovation of housing undertaken by the respective parties;
  - (c) commissioning research, studies, or other work specific to housing;

- (d) sharing housing related information and data including that in relation to construction, demographics, engineering and architecture;
- (e) jointly supporting staff secondments and training; and,
- (f) coordinating housing related communication and advocacy efforts at the local, territorial and federal levels.

7.4 Each Party retains the right, at its sole discretion, to take actions independently in respect of any matters related to the subject matter of this MOU. Each Party shall ensure that, in any public or private communication, it does not represent, imply, or otherwise attribute any position, statement, or view to the other Party without that Party's prior written consent.

## **8. INFORMATION AND DATA SHARING**

8.1 The Parties agree to the open and timely sharing of information on matters of mutual concern under this MOU and acknowledge that effective and direct collaboration on housing requires the sharing of housing-related data including, but not limited to: (1) data related to trends, (2) demographics, (3) wait lists, (4) land, (5) capital planning, and (6) technical expertise.

8.2 The Parties recognize that their ability to share information and data may be limited to ensure compliance with the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* of the NWT.

8.3 The Parties agree that the sharing of information pursuant to this MOU is intended to be confidential and that disclosure of information to the public shared by IRC pursuant to this MOU could reasonably be expected to reveal information received in confidence from an Indigenous organization exercising governmental functions.

8.4 The Parties agree to enter into a confidentiality agreement prior to the sharing of information.

## **9. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL**

9.1 Each Party will designate a primary communications contact and an alternate to coordinate external communications, respond to media inquiries and escalate emerging issues as required, for the purpose of this MOU.

- 9.2 Each Party will provide advance notice to the other Party, when possible, of planned public announcements, communication materials or engagement activities that pertains to matters in this MOU or the work of the housing working group, including news releases, statements, speeches, events and social media posts.
- 9.3 Media inquiries related to this MOU, housing priorities in the Inuvialuit Communities or the work of the housing working group will be acknowledged promptly and referred to the appropriate Party. Where a response may reasonably be expected to reference both Parties, the Parties will coordinate key messages and, where appropriate, issue a joint response. Where a review by both Parties is not necessary, the lead Party will share media responses after the fact with the other Party.
- 9.4 If an issue, incident or emerging matter could reasonably be expected to attract public attention or affect the relationship between the Parties, the Party first aware will notify the other Party as soon as practicable. The Parties will collaborate on an appropriate communications approach, including key messages, spokespersons, timing and community notifications.
- 9.5 Any draft communications products intended to be issued jointly, or that include quotes attributed to the other Party, will be shared for review and approval prior to release. Each Party remains responsible for its own approvals and will use reasonable efforts to provide feedback in a timely manner.
- 9.6 Neither Party will use the other Party's name, logo or visual identity in a way that implies endorsement, nor in public materials related to this MOU, without prior written approval, except where required by law.

## **10. EFFECT OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

- 10.1 This MOU does not create legal obligations for the Parties.
- 10.2 This MOU does not constrain the IRC and Housing NWT from exercising their respective powers and responsibilities, nor does it impose any financial obligations.
- 10.3 This MOU does not prevent the IRC or the GNWT from participating in other intergovernmental processes or agreements.

- 10.4 For greater certainty, this agreement is intended to facilitate and enhance the exercise of aboriginal and/or established rights held by Inuvialuit beneficiaries in the NWT. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from the protection provided for existing aboriginal and/or established rights of the Inuvialuit by the recognition and affirmation of those rights in section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.
- 10.5 This MOU is complementary to other applicable bilateral agreements and arrangements between the IRC and the GNWT.

## 11. GENERAL TERMS

- 11.1 This MOU will be in effect for a period of four (4) years from the date of signing.
- 11.2 This MOU may be periodically reviewed and amended and, upon written consent of the Parties, may be renewed for a further term as agreed to by the Parties.
- 11.3 This Agreement may be terminated by either party upon written notice being given to the other party at least sixty (60) days in advance of the termination date.

## SIGNATORIES


**FOR THE INUVIALUIT REGIONAL  
CORPORATION**



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Erwin Elias  
Chair and CEO  
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

**FOR HOUSING NWT**



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Honourable Lucy Kuptana  
Minister Responsible for  
Housing NWT