

RELEASE

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St. John's Area November Housing Starts

ST. JOHN'S, December 8, 2009 – Urban housing starts held steady during the month of November, according to preliminary data¹ released today by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). November's housing starts totaled 176 throughout the St. John's area versus 173 starts in November of 2008. An additional 12 starts were recorded in other urban areas across the province, for a total of 188 provincial starts compared to 196 the previous November.

"St. John's area housing starts held steady relative to last November, posting a small increase of two per cent, with year-to-date starts off ten per cent compared to 2008's accelerated pace," said Chris Janes, senior market analyst with CMHC in Newfoundland and Labrador. "Employment, income and population growth continues to support residential construction activity throughout the St. John's region," added Janes.

For Canada's urban centres, total housing starts were flat with 13,507 recorded in November compared to 13,500 during November of 2008. Single-detached starts increased 15 per cent to 6,671, while multiple starts of 6,836 represent an 11 per cent decline from a year ago. Throughout Atlantic Canada, there were 641 urban housing starts posted versus 734 the previous November, a decline of 13 per cent.

As Canada's national housing agency, CMHC draws on more than 60 years of experience to help Canadians access a variety of quality, environmentally sustainable and affordable homes. CMHC also provides reliable, impartial and up-to-date housing market reports, analysis and knowledge to support and assist consumers and the housing industry in making vital decisions.

¹ Figures for the most recent month are preliminary and subject to revisions due to corrections or updates from quarterly enumeration or sampling results.

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For more information, visit www.cmhc.ca or call 1-800-668-2642.

PRELIMINARY URBAN MONTHLY HOUSING STARTS NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR SUMMARY						
	2009	2008	% Change	YEAR-TO-DATE		% Change
	NOV	NOV		2009	2008	
ALL URBAN CENTRES WITH POPULATIONS > 50,000						
ST. JOHN'S CMA						
Single	128	141	-9.2%	1,257	1,335	-5.8%
Multiple	48	32	50.0%	245	326	-24.8%
TOTAL	176	173	1.7%	1,502	1,661	-9.6%
ALL URBAN CENTRES WITH POPULATION > 10,000						
ALL CENTRES*						
Single	138	164	-15.9%	1,486	1,607	-7.5%
Multiple	50	32	56.3%	299	396	-24.5%
TOTAL	188	196	-4.1%	1,785	2,003	-10.9%

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* Includes all centres with a total population of more than 10,000 (St. John's CMA, Corner Brook CA, Gander CA, Grand Falls/Windsor CA and Bay Roberts CA)

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