

RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. John's Area February Housing Starts

ST. JOHN'S, March 8, 2010 – Urban housing starts increased during the month of February, according to preliminary data¹ released today by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). February's housing starts totaled 68 throughout the St. John's area versus 45 starts in February of 2009. There were no additional starts recorded outside the St. John's area.

"February's brisk residential construction activity was attributed to a combination of continued demand and an unseasonably mild winter month," said Chris Janes, senior market analyst with CMHC in Newfoundland and Labrador. "Local economic and demographic conditions continue to support new home construction throughout the St. John's region and the first two months of 2010 indicate a solid start to the year," added Janes.

For Canada's urban centres, total housing starts increased 83 per cent with 10,361 recorded in February compared to 5,660 during February of 2009. Single-detached starts increased 107 per cent to 4,383, while multiple starts of 5,978 represent a 69 per cent climb from a year ago. Throughout Atlantic Canada, there were 430 urban housing starts posted versus 272 the previous February, an increase of 58 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						
	2010	2009	% Change	YEAR-TO-DATE		% Change
	FEB	FEB		2010	2009	
ALL URBAN CENTRES WITH POPULATIONS > 50,000						
ST. JOHN'S CMA						
Single	58	39	48.7%	140	127	10.2%
Multiple	10	6	66.7%	32	42	-23.8%
TOTAL	68	45	51.1%	172	169	1.8%
ALL URBAN CENTRES WITH POPULATION > 10,000						
ALL CENTRES*						
Single	58	39	48.7%	145	133	9.0%
Multiple	10	6	66.7%	33	44	-25.0%
TOTAL	68	45	51.1%	178	177	0.6%

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* Includes all centres with a total population of more than 10,000.

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