

RELEASE

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St. John's Area March Housing Starts

ST. JOHN'S, April 12, 2010 – Urban housing starts increased during the month of March, according to preliminary data¹ released today by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). March's housing starts totaled 75 throughout the St. John's area versus 45 starts in March of 2009. There were six additional starts recorded outside the St. John's area, for a total of 81 provincial urban starts compared to 47 last March. For the first quarter of 2010, there was a record 246 urban housing starts posted in the St. John's region versus 214 during the same period in 2009.

"March's strong new home construction activity was due to a combination of continued demand and another unseasonably mild winter month," said Chris Janes, senior market analyst with CMHC in Newfoundland and Labrador. "Positive economic and demographic factors continue to support residential construction activity throughout the St. John's region and the first three months of 2010 indicate a solid start to the year," added Janes.

For Canada's urban centres, total housing starts increased 32 per cent with 11,371 recorded in March compared to 8,605 during March of 2009. Single-detached starts increased 117 per cent to 5,536, while multiple starts of 5,835 represent a four per cent decline from a year ago. Throughout Atlantic Canada, there were 311 urban housing starts posted versus 244 the previous March, an increase of 27 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.

PRELIMINARY URBAN MONTHLY HOUSING STARTS NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR SUMMARY						
	2010	2009	% Change	YEAR-TO-DATE		% Change
	MAR	MAR		2010	2009	
ALL URBAN CENTRES WITH POPULATIONS > 50,000						
ST. JOHN'S CMA						
Single	60	39	53.8%	199	166	19.9%
Multiple	15	6	##	47	48	-2.1%
TOTAL	75	45	66.7%	246	214	15.0%
ALL URBAN CENTRES WITH POPULATION > 10,000						
ALL CENTRES*						
Single	61	41	48.8%	203	174	16.7%
Multiple	20	6	##	59	50	18.0%
TOTAL	81	47	72.3%	262	224	17.0%
Figures for the most recent month are preliminary and subject to revisions due to corrections or updates from quarterly enumeration or sampling results.						
* Includes all centres with a total population of more than 10,000 (St. John's CMA, Bay Roberts CA, Corner Brook CA, Gander CA, Grand Falls/Windsor CA)						
## Indicates changes in excess of 100% which are not reported due to volatility resulting from small absolute numbers.						

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