

RELEASE

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May Housing Starts

ST. JOHN'S, June 8, 2011 – Housing starts in the St. John's region were flat during the month of May, according to preliminary data¹ released today by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). May's housing starts totaled 223 units throughout the St. John's area compared to 215 units in May of 2010. There were ten additional starts recorded in urban centres outside the St. John's area, for a total of 233 provincial urban housing starts. Year-to-date, urban starts are down 17 per cent, with 561 posted province-wide.

“Single-detached construction activity declined considerably in May, but was offset by a significant increase in multiple housing starts in the form of condos in St. John's,” said Chris Janes, senior market analyst with CMHC in Newfoundland and Labrador. “The trend towards lower levels of construction activity continued, with the single-detached segment down 27 per cent to 367 units compared to the first five months of last year,” added Janes.

In urban centres across Canada, total housing starts recorded in May were down seven per cent to 15,025 units compared to 16,178 a year ago. Single-detached starts declined 23 per cent to 6,005 units, while multiple starts increased seven per cent to 9,020 units in May. In the Atlantic region, 848 new homes were started compared to 1,137 during May 2010.

As Canada's national housing agency, CMHC draws on 65 years of experience to help Canadians access a variety of high 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 informed 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.

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

PRELIMINARY URBAN MONTHLY HOUSING STARTS NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR SUMMARY						
	2011	2010	% Change	YEAR-TO-DATE		% Change
	MAY	MAY		2011	2010	
ALL URBAN CENTRES WITH POPULATIONS > 50,000						
ST. JOHN'S CMA						
Single	127	186	-31.7%	367	500	-26.6%
Multiple	96	29	##	168	90	86.7%
TOTAL	223	215	3.7%	535	590	-9.3%
ALL URBAN CENTRES WITH POPULATION > 10,000						
ALL CENTRES*						
Single	131	219	-40.2%	385	558	-31.0%
Multiple	102	38	##	176	116	51.7%
TOTAL	233	257	-9.3%	561	674	-16.8%
<p>Figures for the most recent month are preliminary and subject to revisions due to corrections or updates from quarterly enumeration or sampling results.</p> <p>* Includes all centres with a total population of more than 10,000 (St. John's CMA, Corner Brook CA, Gander MD, Grand Falls/Windsor CA and Bay Roberts CA)</p> <p>## Indicates changes in excess of 100% which are not reported due to volatility resulting from small absolute numbers.</p> <p>For further information, contact:</p> <p>CHRIS JANES SENIOR MARKET ANALYST - NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION (709) 772-2403</p>						