

**Notes for an address by the
Chief executive officer of the
Société d'habitation du Québec,
Mr Michel Gagnon,**

**during the
4th KMHB-Pivallianiq Housing Day,**

**Inukjuak,
Wednesday 2nd September 2015 at 2:00pm**

Greetings to the leading figures present *(to be completed on site)*

Mr Boucher (Jean Boucher, Member of the National Assembly for Ungava and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister responsible for Native Affairs (Northern communities),

Mr Rivard (Pierre Rivard, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Société d'habitation du Québec),

Mr Moorhouse (Andy Moorhouse, Corporate Secretary of Makivik Corporation),

Mr Oovaut (Daniel Oovaut, Chairman of the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau),

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

- It is a great pleasure for me to be present on this very important day for all the communities of Nunavik, who are committed to their well-being and who take pride in their homes.
- For **nearly 35 years**, the Société d'habitation du Québec has played a key role with the families of Nunavik by offering them low-income housing based on their needs and by funding projects such as the Pivallianiq Programme

which has been started with the collaboration of the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau.

- The Société d'habitation du Québec is proud to participate in this great popular festival. Each year, it puts in a lot of effort to assist the households of Nunavik, among others, by funding various initiatives in terms of housing and by devoting a significant portion of its budget in order to improve the living conditions of the people of Nunavik.
- We are very aware of the particularly difficult housing conditions of the inhabitants of Inuit communities and we are working very hard to increase and diversify the supply of housing throughout the territory of Nunavik.
- During the last year, in 2014, the Québec government has moreover contributed to the completion of **150 new social housing units** in Nunavik thanks to a partnership with

Makivik Corporation. In 2015, around 140 housing units should be built.

- Since the implementation of the Pivallianiq Program, four years ago, the Société d'habitation du Québec has injected **nearly 6 million dollars** into the Pivallianiq Program. Around **650 households** have, up until now, been certified under the Pivallianiq Program, whilst more than 950 families are involved in the *Makeover Team*, which is very encouraging, since the more members of the programme there are, there will be more significant benefits for your communities.
- The Pivallianiq Program aims to raise awareness of the households of Nunavik to the importance of maintaining their homes. This programme therefore contributes not only to maintaining the social housing estate of Nunavik in good condition, but encourages the adoption of public-spirited and responsible behaviour in addition to developing pride and the feeling of responsibility towards their housing.

- These actions allow the Société d'habitation du Québec to better support the building of new social housing units rather than using this money to repair housing.
- For this purpose, I would like to remind you that the Québec government has invested **more than 300 million dollars between 2008 and 2014** in order to carry out major renovations to the social housing estate of Nunavik.
- Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all those who are involved, directly or indirectly, in this program. I am referring, of course, to all citizens who have joined the Pivallianiq Program, but also to staff members of the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau and to the Pivallianiq makeover team members who are present in your communities.
- We must continue to work together in order to provide a suitable environment for all the communities of Nunavik who each have their characteristics, values and own culture. The

Pivallianiq Program, in which all parties have a role to play, is a way of achieving this objective, since let's not forget that only together will we be able to build better living for all the households of Nunavik.

- Thank you for your attention.

Nakurmik.

Tavvauvusi (Au revoir en Inuktitut).