

RELEASE

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St. John's Area May Housing Starts

ST. JOHN'S, June 8, 2010 – Urban housing starts increased during the month of May, according to preliminary data¹ released today by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). May's housing starts totaled 215 throughout the St. John's area versus 175 starts in May of 2009. There were four additional starts recorded outside the St. John's area, for a total of 219 provincial urban starts compared to 213 last May.

"May's residential construction activity represents a significant increase compared to May 2009. Year-to-date starts are up 24 per cent, with 590 urban starts recorded during the January to May period," said Chris Janes, senior market analyst with CMHC in Newfoundland and Labrador. "Strong local economic activity, combined with steady population growth, has sustained new home demand during the first five months of 2010," added Janes.

In urban centres across Canada, total housing starts increased 46 per cent with 15,527 recorded in May compared to 10,615 during May of 2009. Throughout Atlantic Canada, there were 1,045 urban housing starts posted versus 857 the previous May, an increase of 22 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
	MAY	MAY		2010	2009	
ALL URBAN CENTRES WITH POPULATIONS > 50,000						
ST. JOHN'S CMA						
Single	186	164	13.4%	500	413	21.1%
Multiple	29	11	##	90	63	42.9%
TOTAL	215	175	22.9%	590	476	23.9%
ALL URBAN CENTRES WITH POPULATION > 10,000						
ALL CENTRES*						
Single	189	196	-3.6%	511	470	8.7%
Multiple	30	17	76.5%	103	73	41.1%
TOTAL	219	213	2.8%	614	543	13.1%

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* Includes all centres with a total population of more than 10,000 (St. John's CMA, Corner Brook CA, Gander T, and Grand Falls-Windsor CA)

Indicates changes in excess of 100% which are not reported due to volatility resulting from small absolute numbers.

Information on this release:

Chris Janes
Senior Market Analyst – NL
CMHC Market Analysis Centre
(709)772-2403
Cell: (709)743-4636
cjanes@cmhc.ca