



FOR RELEASE
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Affordable housing RFQ attracts interest from private and non-profit sectors

WHITEHORSE—Nine proponents with projects based in four communities have advanced to the Request for Proposal phase of Yukon Housing Corporation's affordable rental housing development competition.

Twenty-two private contractors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) responded to the Yukon Housing Corporation's affordable housing request for qualifications (RFQ).

"The number of submissions was very encouraging," Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation Brad Cathers said. "We appreciate the interest from stakeholders in working together to increase the availability of affordable rental housing."

All of the proposals received have been evaluated. Nine applicants with a total of 11 projects have been selected to complete Request for Proposals (RFP). Due to the number and diversity of submitted proposals, a fairness monitor—former Ombudsman Hank Moorlag—was engaged to ensure consistent methods and values were applied to evaluate the proposals. The fairness monitor ensures that the consideration process is objective, fair and equitable. The monitor will continue to participate in the process through the RFP phase.

Under this affordable rental development process, the government will match eligible costs of private and non-government organization investments, leveraging \$13 million from the Northern Housing Trust funding into at least \$26 million in affordable rental construction. Non-government organizations and social agencies are encouraged to work together and share expertise and skills through this initiative.

Projects funded under this process will carry guarantees that rental rates remain affordable for at least 10 years. For the purposes of this project, the definition of affordable stipulates that rental rates remain at or below 95 per cent of median rates. The median rent for Whitehorse in June 2013 was \$875 per month.

The eleven qualifying projects will be detailed and submitted for final evaluation under the RFP criteria. Announcements on the successful proponents and their projects are anticipated in April.

Learn more

Yukon's Housing Action Plan: housing.yk.ca/housing_action_plan.html

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