

FOR RELEASE
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Modest affordable rental housing projects approved for Whitehorse and Dawson

Joint news release

WHITEHORSE—Two Yukon developers have been awarded capital funding support for the construction and operation of affordable rental housing projects in Whitehorse and Dawson.

Chief Isaac Incorporated, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in business arm, will receive \$450,000 for a 14-unit development in Dawson. Nine of the 14 units will be allocated for affordable housing tenants. The total project cost is estimated at \$3.97 million.

360° Design Build, owned by Antonio Zedda and Jack Kobayashi, will receive \$500,000 to construct urban micro-apartments on Hawkins Street in Whitehorse. The four-story building will consist of furnished one-bedroom apartments. Ten of the 14 units will be allocated for affordable housing tenants. The total project cost is estimated to be \$2.91 million.

"Our Government understands that all Canadians need and deserve housing that is safe, adequate and affordable," Yukon Member of Parliament Larry Bagnell said on behalf of the Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos. "Through Budget 2016, we have doubled the investment in the Affordable Housing Initiative to help build stronger communities from coast-to-coast-to-coast, including here in Yukon."

Both of the successful projects will receive a capital funding contribution towards the construction of the affordable rental apartments. Funding support for the housing projects is provided through the Investment in Affordable Housing agreement between Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Yukon Housing Corporation.

"I would like to congratulate the developers for their innovative housing proposals," Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation the Honourable Stacey Hassard said. "Low- and moderate-income Yukoners will soon have more choice for affordable rental accommodations."

The Chief Isaac Group of Companies was established in 1984 to own and operate the business interests of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, a self-governing Yukon First Nation based in Dawson.

360° Design Build is a Yukon-based design, construction and development company located in Whitehorse. With more than 50 urban housing units completed since 2002, 360° Design Build has taken a hands-on approach to design/build residential projects in Yukon.

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See backgrounder.

Contact

Dan Macdonald
Cabinet Communications
867-393-6470
dan.macdonald@gov.yk.ca

Tim Sellars
Communications, Yukon Housing Corporation
867-456-6802
tim.sellars@gov.yk.ca

Young Ong
Public Affairs, CMHC
403-515-2962
yong@cmhc.ca

Backgrounder: project descriptions

Chief Isaac Incorporated housing proposal - Dawson

Location: The new building will be located in Dawson on the corner of Queen Street and Second Avenue. The old Cassiar building currently occupies the lot.

Description: The new building features design highlights that blend with Dawson's turn of the century ambience and building styles. The two-storey structure will blend in with existing properties and will not stand out as a modern structure among the neighbouring historic buildings. The building will meet the requirements of the Heritage Advisory Committee and their guidelines.

Structure: Constructed of durable low-maintenance materials, the energy efficient building will accommodate rooftop gardening planters for tenants. A common roof-top patio will also be included. Each apartment will feature its own private balcony to provide natural light, fresh air and connection to the outdoors and the street ambience.

Apartments: The barrier-free building will incorporate 13 residential units and one commercial unit on the ground floor. The building will include nine affordable single-bedroom suites and four two-bedroom suites at market rents.

360° Design Build Urban Micro Apartments -Whitehorse

Location: The building will be constructed at 300 block Hawkins Street in Whitehorse.

Description: The building is designed to appeal to young single people by being centrally located in the downtown Whitehorse area, close to amenities and services. The design of the building will fit into the character of the neighbourhood, with the top floor setback from the building edge to provide a scaled transition fitting with the smaller scaled buildings in the area. As many new residents who move to Yukon have few possessions, these apartments will be partially furnished as a first stage for tenants seeking to transition to longer-term housing options.

Structure: The building will be four-stories constructed to energy-efficient standards. The ground floor will be commercial space with two single bedroom units, and the upper three floors will house 10 single bedrooms residential apartments. The top floor will also have two two-bedroom market rental units. All floors will be serviced with an elevator. A roof top deck will be available to all tenants. A bicycle storage area will be included on the ground floor.

Apartments: The 10 furnished single bedroom affordable housing units will be approximately 360 square feet in size

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