

July 13, 2023

For Immediate Release

**The Nunatsiavut Housing Commission is pleased to announce new Furnace and Oil Tank Repair Program--2023/24 Application Call for Rigolet and Makkovik**

Many homes in Nunatsiavut rely upon oil and wood burning furnaces for heat, yet there is a lack of locally available furnace technicians and specialists to respond to necessary repairs. The cost to bring such skilled expertise into one of the communities can be prohibitively high for one or two households to afford on their own. The purpose of this program, therefore, is to address en masse the recurrent issues residents of Nunatsiavut have with furnaces and oil tanks by providing a skilled technician for bulk inspections and repairs, two communities per season. A qualified technician will travel to each community to perform inspections on the furnaces and oil tanks of selected applicants. Scopes of work will be provided to the Nunatsiavut Housing Commission, who will then contract repair services to perform the recommended repairs up to the maximum value of \$15,000.00 per home.

This program will allow up to 40 furnaces/oil tanks to be inspected and repaired in one round between the communities listed. This program will begin in the fiscal year of 2023/2024, where work will be completed in a maximum of two communities per year (20 homes per community), and will repeat in the other communities each fiscal year until all five communities have been reached, with the possibility of renewal depending on demand and need.

In order to be eligible for this program, applicants should meet the following conditions:

- Be a Beneficiary of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreements;
- Reside in Nunatsiavut;
- Meet residency requirements;
- Be the homeowner, or if not, provide proof from the homeowner of consent for repair work;
- Must not have received repairs on the furnace in question through another Nunatsiavut Housing Commission Repair program, or a Nunatsiavut Government program, in the last 5 years (for example, for 2023, no one who received repairs on their furnace in 2018 or onwards is eligible).

Note that while all those Beneficiaries who meet the above criteria are eligible to apply, demand may exceed supply of program funds; in the event that we receive more than 40 household applications, priority will be given to lower income households, seniors, and homes with dependent children under 18.

Please note that proof of total household income is required via the 2022 Notice of Assessment from the Canada Revenue Agency (line #150) at the time of application for all permanent residents of the household between the ages of 18 and 65 years. Income for seniors over the age of 65 will not be used to calculate total household gross income.

Applications for the communities of Rigolet and Makkovik are now open. Applications may be submitted until **Wednesday, August 2, 2023 at 4:30 pm.**

**For more information, please contact:**

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