

RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Housing starts remain on the upswing in April**

Edmonton, May 10, 2010 – On the heels of a strong performance in the first quarter, new home builders in the Edmonton region reported large year-over-year gains in April. According to preliminary figures released today by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), housing starts in the Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) reached 1,407 units in April compared with 355 units in April 2009. After four months, builders have started work on 3,439 units, compared with 1,116 units during January to April 2009.

Single-detached starts totalled 620 units in April; three fold the 206 units tallied in April 2009. So far this year, 2,014 units were started across Metro compared with 607 single-detached units in the first four months of 2009. This represents the best January to April performance since 2007.

Multiple unit starts, which include semi-detached, row, and apartment units, amounted to 787 units in April, more than five times the 149 multiple dwelling starts in April 2009. “Not since January 2008 have multiple starts exceeded 700 units across the Capital region,” noted Richard Goatcher, CMHC’s Senior Market Analyst based in Edmonton. Three-quarters of April’s multiple starts were condominium apartments in the city of Edmonton. To the end of the April, multiple starts have risen by 180 per cent year-over-year to 1,425 units compared with 509 units started during the first four months of last year.

Housing starts in Alberta’s seven largest centres reached 2,534 units in April compared with 794 units in April 2009. Wood Buffalo was the only major centre to report lower activity compared with April of last year.

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. For more information, visit www.cmhc.ca or call 1-800-668-2642.

CMHC Market Analysis standard reports are also available free for download at <http://www.cmhc.ca/housingmarketinformation>.

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**Preliminary Housing Starts in Alberta
April 2010**

	Single-Detached			Multiple-Family			Total		
	2010	2009	%	2010	2009	%	2010	2009	%
Calgary CMA	642	234	--	267	87	--	909	321	--
Calgary City	506	185	--	263	81	--	769	266	--
Edmonton CMA	620	206	--	787	149	--	1,407	355	--
Edmonton City	354	105	--	723	66	--	1,077	171	--
Wood Buffalo CA	29	54	-46.3	14	0	--	43	54	-20.4
Grande Prairie CA	40	1	--	0	2	--	40	3	--
Lethbridge CA	49	35	40.0	4	2	--	53	37	43.2
Medicine Hat CA	34	9	--	2	0	--	36	9	--
Red Deer CA	40	13	--	6	2	--	46	15	--
Total*	1,454	552	--	1,080	242	--	2,534	794	--

Source: Market Analysis Centre, C.M.H.C.

-- % change equals or exceeds +/- 100%

*Total consists of Calgary CMA, Edmonton CMA and the five CAs

January to April 2010

	Single-Detached			Multiple-Family			Total		
	2010	2009	%	2010	2009	%	2010	2009	%
Calgary CMA	2,170	793	--	900	274	--	3,070	1,067	--
Calgary City	1,725	587	--	805	170	--	2,530	757	--
Edmonton CMA	2,014	607	--	1,425	509	--	3,439	1,116	--
Edmonton City	1,169	315	--	1,257	304	--	2,426	619	--
Wood Buffalo CA	107	133	-19.5	57	82	-30.5	164	215	-23.7
Grande Prairie CA	91	75	21.3	2	18	-88.9	93	93	0.0
Lethbridge CA	178	128	39.1	34	18	88.9	212	146	45.2
Medicine Hat CA	82	38	--	10	61	-83.6	92	99	-7.1
Red Deer CA	118	63	87.3	136	10	--	254	73	--
Total*	4,760	1,837	--	2,564	972	--	7,324	2,809	--

Source: Market Analysis Centre, C.M.H.C.

-- % change equals or exceeds +/- 100%

*Total consists of Calgary CMA, Edmonton CMA and the five CAs

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