

RELEASE

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Edmonton housing starts increase in May

Edmonton, June 8, 2012 – According to preliminary figures released today by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), housing starts in the Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) increased in May to 1,246 units from 1,009 starts in May 2011. For the year-to-date, housing starts totalled 4,418 units.

In the Edmonton CMA, foundations were poured for 497 single-detached units in May, a nine per cent reduction from May of last year. Within Edmonton City limits, 279 single-detached units were started, down 19 per cent from a year earlier.

“Single-detached housing starts in the Edmonton CMA are up 16 per cent year-to-date, with 2,073 singles breaking ground in the first five months of 2012,” said Christina Butchart, CMHC’s Senior Market Analyst for Edmonton.

Multi-family starts, which consist of semi-detached units, rows, and apartments, grew by 62 per cent year-over-year in May to 749 units. Gains were reported in all unit types, with apartment starts leading the sector. There were 449 apartment starts in May, nearly double the 225 recorded a year earlier.

“Growth in multi-family construction is supported by an economy characterized by an expanding labour market, rising incomes, and higher levels of net migration,” added Butchart. The City of Edmonton accounted for 81 per cent of multi-family starts in May, with 610 units recorded. Year-to-date, 2,345 multi-family units were started across the Edmonton CMA.

As Canada’s national housing agency, CMHC draws on more than 65 years of experience to help Canadians access a variety of high quality, environmentally sustainable and affordable housing solutions. 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 informed 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 www.cmhc.ca/housingmarketinformation.

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**Preliminary Housing Starts in Alberta
May 2012**

	Single-Detached			Multiple-Family			Total		
	2012	2011	%	2012	2011	%	2012	2011	%
Calgary CMA	483	501	-3.6	466	206	--	949	707	34.2
Calgary City	381	417	-8.6	212	182	16.5	593	599	-1.0
Edmonton CMA	497	546	-9.0	749	463	61.8	1,246	1,009	23.5
Edmonton City	279	346	-19.4	610	296	--	889	642	38.5
Wood Buffalo CA	36	34	5.9	18	0	--	54	34	58.8
Grande Prairie CA*	45	68	**	22	0	**	67	68	**
Grande Prairie City	45	30	50.0	22	0	--	67	30	--
Lethbridge CA	54	42	28.6	0	18	--	54	60	-10.0
Medicine Hat CA	30	18	66.7	0	2	--	30	20	50.0
Red Deer CA	37	33	12.1	30	17	76.5	67	50	34.0
Total	1,182	1,242	**	1,285	706	**	2,467	1,948	**

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

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

* In 2012, Statistics Canada redefined the geographic boundaries for the Grande Prairie Census Agglomeration (CA). Effective January 2012, the following communities are no longer included in the Grande Prairie CA: Beaverlodge, Grande Prairie County, Hythe, Sexsmith, and Wembley.

** Year-over-year comparisons are not applicable due to geographic changes in the Grande Prairie CA effective January 2012.

January to May 2012

	Single-Detached			Multiple-Family			Total		
	2012	2011	%	2012	2011	%	2012	2011	%
Calgary CMA	2,299	1,900	21.0	3,561	911	--	5,860	2,811	--
Calgary City	1,784	1,476	20.9	3,018	790	--	4,802	2,266	--
Edmonton CMA	2,073	1,783	16.3	2,345	1,549	51.4	4,418	3,332	32.6
Edmonton City	1,280	1,151	11.2	1,789	1,141	56.8	3,069	2,292	33.9
Wood Buffalo CA	99	146	-32.2	86	44	95.5	185	190	-2.6
Grande Prairie CA*	120	159	**	34	14	**	154	173	**
Grande Prairie City	120	92	30.4	34	8	--	154	100	54.0
Lethbridge CA	193	175	10.3	12	186	-93.5	205	361	-43.2
Medicine Hat CA	65	49	32.7	24	10	--	89	59	50.8
Red Deer CA	122	124	-1.6	134	56	--	256	180	42.2
Total	4,971	4,336	**	6,196	2,770	**	11,167	7,106	**

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

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