

Housing Investments in La Loche

The tragic events in La Loche on January 22, 2016, have resulted in widespread support for the creation of a joint community/provincial/federal La Loche Action Plan. The four priorities identified for this plan are health, education, infrastructure, and housing.

Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC), in partnership with other government ministries, is working with the Village of La Loche to address these priorities. SHC has established a housing working committee consisting of village leaders and representatives of other provincial and federal ministries. This group has met several times and has supported the work of the community in developing a three-year plan for housing development, including the current 14-unit housing project.

With the increase to the Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) (2014-19) Agreement, there is currently opportunity to invest in additional housing units in La Loche, thus achieving some of the goals set out within the Action Plan.

SHC and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) are jointly providing \$1.4 million in the form of a forgivable loan towards the construction of 14 new affordable rental units, including six 2-bedroom units, four 3-bedroom units, and four 1-bedroom units in the community's new subdivision.

Since 2007, Saskatchewan Housing Corporation has provided \$12.5 million in funding for more than 100 rental and homeowner units in La Loche, including 10 units completed earlier this year. Also included in this amount is \$1.4 million in funding to Methy Housing Corporation to build 14 units in La Loche.

Saskatchewan Housing Corporation owns nearly 240 social housing units and more than 30 affordable housing units in La Loche. Through non-profit housing agencies, we support 30 additional affordable units. These units provide safe and affordable homes to people who need housing.

Saskatchewan Housing Corporation has a strong relationship with the Village of La Loche and two non-profits owned by the municipality: Methy Housing Corporation and Methy Construction and Maintenance Corporation. They have been involved in the construction of over 100 housing units in La Loche. Together we are developing creative solutions to alleviate housing pressures in the community.

The community benefits that will be realized as a result of new housing are many and varied. Alleviating overcrowded conditions will lead to improved health and educational outcomes for families and children, and improved social conditions in the community.

overall. The community has a long track record of creating local training and employment opportunities in construction work. It is expected that local residents will benefit not only by employment but also by on-the-job training opportunities, including apprenticeships. The wages paid to those involved in the construction of the 14 units will stimulate the local economy.