



Cook's Ferry Indian Band

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INFORMATION RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2020
Spences Bridge, British Columbia

RAPID HOUSING CONSTRUCTION INITIATIVE ANTKO IR# 21 & TWOYQUALSHT IR# 16

The Government of Canada, by way of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, launched the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI). A \$1 billion program to help address urgent housing needs of vulnerable Canadians, especially in the context of COVID-19, through the rapid construction of affordable housing. The initiative provides capital contributions to cover the construction of modular housing, as well as the acquisition of land, and the conversion /rehabilitation of existing buildings to affordable housing. The aim to has all housing constructed and occupied with 12 months of agreement.

The Cook's Ferry Indian Band was 1 of 679 eligible applications submitted, with applications totaling over 4.2 billion dollars. The Cook's Ferry Indian Band supported by Innovative Business Solutions of Yellowknife; Northwest Territories is one of three (3) known British Columbia First Nations to be successful in their submission.

The members of the Band's Housing Committee are pleased to announce that the Band will be proceeding with the capital housing construction build of five (5) homes – with the construction to be completed by March 2022. The overall project value of the five homes is \$2.5 Million dollars. The project will be supported with grant funding from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and secondary low interest financing from the First Nations Financial Authority with a twenty-five (25) year mortgage.

Freeport Industries Ltd, Westbank, BC, has been awarded the contract to deliver the five (5) homes. Innovative Business Solutions will be serving as Project Managers with onsite construction management by Rockwell Consulting.

Homes will be built offsite at Freeport Industries in Westbank and then installed at:

- One Bedroom Accessible - Twoyqualsht IR #16
- Three Bedroom – Twoyqualsht IR #16
- Two Bedroom – Twoyqualsht IR #16
- One Bedroom - Antko IR #21
- One Bedroom - Antko IR #21

In May 2021 members will begin to see construction activities at Twayqualsht and Antko.

As the two Construction Sites will be considered active and for the safety of the community members - ONLY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL will be allowed on site.

As your Chief, our Council is very excited to be undertaking this major housing build. We also thankful to Innovative Business Solutions and our Management Team for bring this funding to our Band. We are eager to be growing our community to new levels and providing for new and affordable housing for our membership. Once substantial build has been completed, calls for applications to residence will be announced to membership.

Questions Concerning the Release: Questions can be direct to Peter Rouble, Manager, Projects and Special Initiatives through email specialprojects@cookserryband.ca or through the band office number (250) 458-2224.