

RELEASE**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Housing Starts Climb 24% in the First Quarter**

Vancouver, April 10, 2006 – Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) figures indicate housing starts in the Vancouver CMA climbed 30 per cent to 2,016 units in March over the same period last year. Single detached starts increased 56 per cent to 546 units, while multiple starts rose 23 per cent to 1,470 units compared to March 2005.

Last month's robust housing starts contributed to an overall increase during the first quarter. A total of 5,093 housing units were started in the first three months of the year, up 24 per cent from the same period last year. Single detached starts led the way, rising 41 per cent to 1,424 units. Multiple starts increased 18 per cent to 3,669 units compared to the first quarter of 2005.

"Despite a limited supply of land and skilled trades workers, home builders are managing to increase production," said Cameron Muir, Senior Market Analyst. "Growth in the overall stock of housing is crucial to affordability. More housing choice reduces the tendency for prices to be bid up by consumers competing against each other over a limited number of homes for sale."

Urban BC housing starts increased 27 per cent to 7,934 units during the first quarter, compared to the same period last year. Single detached starts climbed 28 per cent to 2,789 units and multiple starts rose 26 per cent to 5,145 units, compared to the first quarter of 2005.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has been Canada's national housing agency for over 60 years. CMHC contributes to improving the living conditions and the well-being of Canadians through four areas of housing activities – housing finance, assisted housing, research and information transfer, and export promotion. CMHC is committed to helping Canadians access a wide choice of quality, affordable homes, and making vibrant and sustainable communities and cities a reality across the country. For more information, visit www.cmhc.ca or call 1 800 668-2642.

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Vancouver CMA Housing Starts

MARCH 2006						
	Single-Detached		Multiples		TOTAL	
	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005
Bowen Island	0	8	0	0	0	8
Burnaby	19	14	320	170	339	184
Coquitlam	6	10	175	18	181	28
Delta	27	10	0	16	27	26
Langley City	2	0	43	0	45	0
Langley District	39	30	12	29	51	59
Maple Ridge	29	52	0	0	29	52
New West	7	3	78	29	85	32
North Van. City	2	1	7	4	9	5
North Van. District	5	9	0	0	5	9
Pitt Meadows	10	16	136	16	146	32
Port Coquitlam	6	3	10	23	16	26
Port Moody	7	4	6	12	13	16
Richmond	55	13	187	186	242	199
Surrey	232	135	110	121	342	256
Vancouver City	84	29	382	575	466	604
West Vancouver	7	8	0	0	7	8
White Rock	5	5	4	0	9	5
Other	4	1	0	0	4	1
CMA TOTAL	546	351	1,470	1,199	2,016	1,550
TOTAL Change	56%		23%		30%	

source CMHC

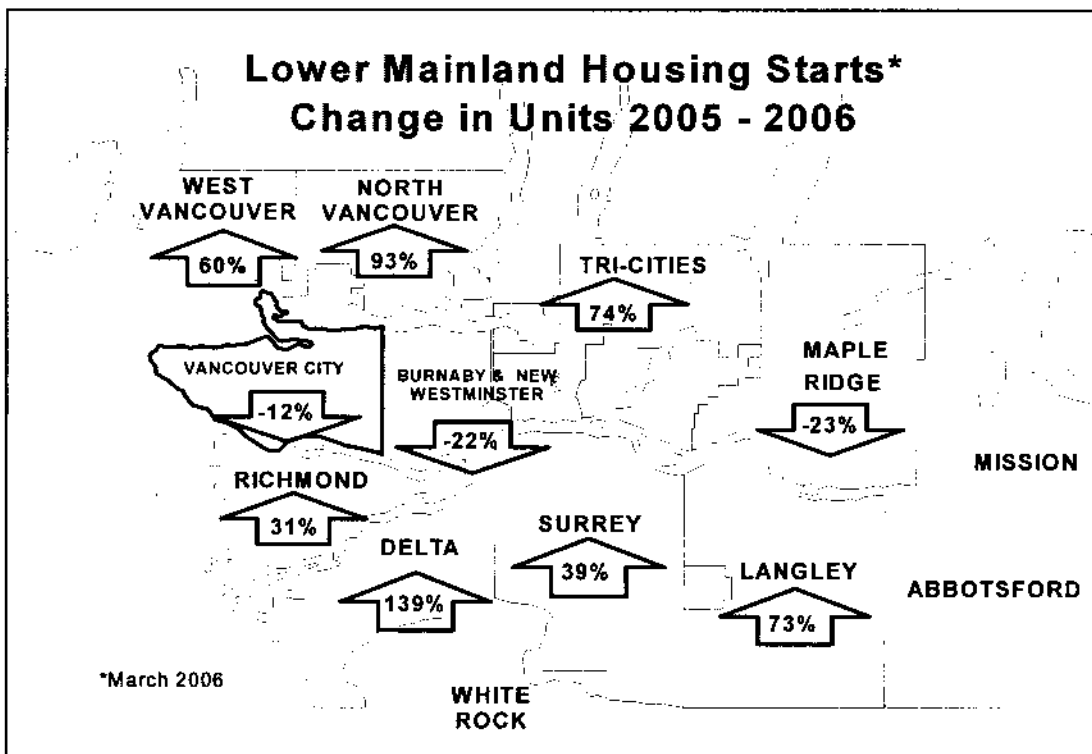
YEAR-TO-DATE MARCH 2006						
	Single-Detached		Multiples		TOTAL	
	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005
Bowen Island	4	22	0	1	4	23
Burnaby	39	42	393	593	432	635
Coquitlam	26	28	480	22	506	50
Delta	41	20	50	18	91	38
Langley City	3	0	158	0	161	0
Langley District	153	80	18	112	171	192
Maple Ridge	89	116	0	0	89	116
New West	17	5	78	39	95	44
North Van. City	4	5	24	14	28	19
North Van. District	14	20	68	18	82	38
Pitt Meadows	26	20	302	38	328	58
Port Coquitlam	10	14	63	27	73	41
Port Moody	20	20	70	273	90	293
Richmond	124	75	641	507	765	582
Surrey	587	381	411	338	998	719
Vancouver City	218	127	810	1036	1,028	1,163
West Vancouver	32	20	0	0	32	20
White Rock	9	13	12	0	21	13
Other	8	4	91	64	99	68
CMA TOTAL	1,424	1,012	3,669	3,100	5,093	4,112
TOTAL Change	41%		18%		24%	

source CMHC

Other: Anmore, Belcarra, Lions Bay, UEL, Unorgan., Metro IR

* Single Detached refers to single family homes

**Multiples refer to semi-detached, townhouse and apartment units



British Columbia - Urban Areas (10,000+ population)

Housing Starts (units) - Urban B.C., March

British Columbia - Urban Areas (10,000+ population)

Housing Starts (Units) - B.C., March 2006

Area	Single Detached			Multiples			Total		
	2005	2006	%Chg.	2005	2006	%Chg.	2005	2006	%Chg.
Vancouver CMA	351	546	55.6%	1,199	1,470	22.6%	1,550	2,016	30.1%
Victoria CMA	86	75	-12.8%	145	30	-79.3%	231	105	-54.5%
Abbotsford CMA	16	28	75.0%	24	76	216.7%	40	104	160.0%
Kelowna CA	95	110	15.8%	58	137	136.2%	153	247	61.4%
Prince George CA	25	20	-20.0%	0	4	***	25	24	-4.0%
Other Centres	229	279	21.8%	178	242	36.0%	407	521	28.0%
Urban B.C.	802	1,058	31.9%	1,604	1,959	22.1%	2,406	3,017	25.4%

source: CMHC

Housing Starts (units) - Urban B.C., January - March 2006

Area	Single Detached			Multiples			Total		
	2005	2006	%Chg.	2005	2006	%Chg.	2005	2006	%Chg.
Vancouver CMA	1,012	1,424	40.7%	3,100	3,669	18.4%	4,112	5,093	23.9%
Victoria CMA	216	239	10.6%	226	233	3.1%	442	472	6.8%
Abbotsford CMA	63	89	41.3%	46	240	421.7%	109	329	201.8%
Kelowna CA	212	254	19.8%	167	499	198.8%	379	753	98.7%
Prince George CA	41	42	2.4%	0	8	***	41	50	22.0%
Other Centres	628	741	18.0%	530	496	-6.4%	1,158	1,237	6.8%
Urban B.C.	2,172	2,789	28.4%	4,069	5,145	26.4%	6,241	7,934	27.1%

source: CMHC