

**2002 North Dakota Housing Conference – ‘Pursuing the North Dakota Dream’**

Bismarck – “Pursuing the North Dakota Dream,” the annual conference of the North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA), will be held Feb. 6 and 7 at the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck. Special guests include John Carson, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Region 8 director; and Rob Levin, executive vice president of Housing and Community Development for Fannie Mae. Governor John Hoeven, Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem will also make remarks during the conference.

The conference will open at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, with keynote addresses by John Carson and Rob Levin. Carson will focus on the Bush Administration’s vision for Federal housing policy, including the soon to be released HUD budget proposal. Levin will discuss the toughest housing problems in America, focusing on challenges in rural areas.

Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson will speak during the noon luncheon, followed by a Washington Update from Barbara Thompson, executive director of the National Council of State Housing Agencies. Thompson will detail what is happening with Federal housing legislation and how it will affect North Dakota.

The conference will reconvene at 8:15 a.m. on Thursday with a welcome from Governor John Hoeven. During the Thursday luncheon, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, on behalf of the Industrial Commission, will present the first annual Champion of Affordable Housing Leadership and Housing Production awards. The newly created awards are designed to recognize and celebrate the work of individuals, non-profit organization, public agencies, and private housing developers or providers who have made exceptional contributions to affordable housing in North Dakota. Stenehjem will also present awards to lenders participating in HFA home ownership programs.

A dozen breakout sessions will be held on Wednesday and Thursday covering housing related topics such as financing, community development and environmental issues.

Concurrent sessions on Wednesday afternoon include:

- Employer-Assisted Housing,
- HUD Update,
- Equity Development,
- Tribal Housing Programs,
- Rural Rental Round Table, and,
- Property Insurance.

The breakout session on Thursday morning are as follows:

- Small Project Financing,
- Environmental Issues,
- Continuum of Care Plan,
- Rural Development Update,
- The Practical Aspects of Lead-Based Paint, and,
- Housing Tools to Meet Community Needs.

The registration fee for the conference is \$55. The conference has been approved for 10 continuing education credits for real estate agents and eight credits for social workers. For information or to register for the conference, contact NDHFA at (701) 328-8056, 1-800-292-8621, or 1-800-366-6888 (TTY). Registration forms are available online at [www.ndhfa.org](http://www.ndhfa.org).

The housing conference planning committee members include the: North Dakota Apartment Association; North Dakota Association of Builders; North Dakota Association of Realtors; North Dakota Bankers Association; North Dakota Department of Commerce, Division of Community Services; North Dakota Department of Commerce, Economic Development and Finance; North Dakota Association of Non Profit Organizations; North Dakota Community Action Association; North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People; North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission; North Dakota Manufactured Housing Association; North Dakota Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials; North Dakota Regional Councils; Fannie Mae North Dakota Partnership Office; Independent Community Banks of North Dakota; Tribal Representatives; US Department of Housing and Urban Development – North Dakota Office; and the USDA Rural Housing Service.

The Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Governor John Hoeven as chairman, Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, oversees the Housing Finance Agency.