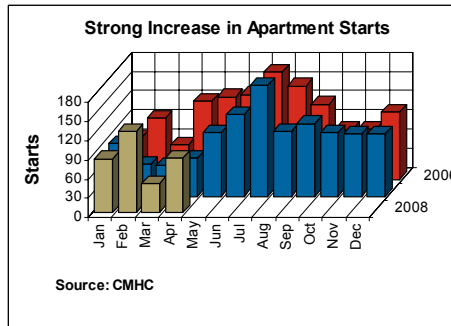**FOR RELEASE ON MAY 8, 2008 AT 8:15 A.M., E.D.T.**

APARTMENTS PUSH UP APRIL STARTS REPORTS CMHC

TORONTO, MAY 8, 2008 – Preliminary housing starts data for April 2008 released today by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) for the St. Catharines-Niagara Census Metropolitan Area[1] (CMA) show a 46 per cent increase from the same month last year to 86 units. Starts of new single-detached homes decreased by 5% to 42 homes. The construction of one new condominium apartment building in Niagara Falls added 39 new units compared to none started in April 2007.

Total starts for the first four months in the St. Catharines-Niagara CMA were up by 105 units from the same period of 2007. Year-over-year growth accelerated to 44 per cent up by one per cent from the first quarter. An eight per cent decline in single-detached starts to 158 homes was more than offset by the 143 apartment starts, compared to none in January-April of 2007.

"Apartment buildings construction has really boosted the new homes starts this year," said Ashot Karapetyan, Market Analyst with CMHC. "One in every three starts has been an apartment".

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[1] Statistics Canada defines a census metropolitan area (CMA) as one or more adjacent municipalities integrated with an urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more must live in the urban core.

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Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has been Canada's national housing agency for over 60 years. CMHC is committed to helping Canadians access a wide choice of quality, affordable homes, while making vibrant, healthy communities and cities a reality across the country. For more information, visit www.cmhc.ca or call 1 800 668-2642.

TABLE 1: MONTH OF APRIL

Municipality	Single-Detached			Semi-Detached			Row			Apartment			Total		
	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%
Fort Erie Town	3	8	167%	0	0	*	4	0	*	0	0	*	7	8	14%
Lincoln Town	9	3	-67%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	9	3	-67%
Niagara Falls	11	8	-27%	2	0	*	5	0	*	0	39	*	18	47	161%
Niagara-on-the-Lake	4	8	100%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	4	8	100%
Pelham Town	4	2	-50%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	4	2	-50%
Port Colborne City	2	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	2	0	*
St. Catharines City	9	2	-78%	0	0	*	4	5	25%	0	0	*	13	7	-46%
Thorold City	0	2	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	2	*
Wainfleet Twp	0	1	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	1	*
Welland City	2	8	300%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	2	8	300%
St. Cath.-Nia. CMA	**44**	**42**	**-5%**	**2**	**0**	*****	**13**	**5**	**-62%**	**0**	**39**	*****	**59**	**86**	**46%**

TABLE 2: YEAR-TO-DATE (JANUARY-APRIL)

Municipality	Single-Detached			Semi-Detached			Row			Apartment			Total		
	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%	2007	2008	%
Fort Erie Town	27	27	0%	4	4	0%	4	0	*	0	0	*	35	31	-11%
Lincoln Town	21	15	-29%	0	0	*	11	4	-64%	0	0	*	32	19	-41%
Niagara Falls	35	34	-3%	4	2	-50%	10	7	-30%	0	39	*	49	82	67%
Niagara-on-the-Lake	22	21	-5%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	22	21	-5%
Pelham Town	18	12	-33%	0	0	*	12	14	17%	0	0	*	30	26	-13%
Port Colborne City	4	4	0%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	4	4	0%
St. Catharines City	21	12	-43%	2	4	100%	21	33	57%	0	0	*	44	49	11%
Thorold City	8	9	13%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	3	*	8	12	50%
Wainfleet Twp	1	3	200%	0	0	*	0	0	*	0	0	*	1	3	200%
Welland City	15	21	40%	0	0	*	0	5	*	0	72	*	15	98	553%
St. Cath.-Nia. CMA	**172**	**158**	**-8%**	**10**	**10**	**0%**	**58**	**63**	**9%**	**0**	**114**	*****	**240**	**345**	**44%**

Source: CMHC
*Not Applicable
**Year-over-Year change greater than 1000 per cent

Aussi disponible en français

For additional information please contact / Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec:

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