



PRESS RELEASE



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Seniors Gain Independence Through Supportive Living

BURNABY, British Columbia, September 13, 2002 — Seniors and people with disabilities will have more care options and independence with today's opening of Nikkei Home, a new supportive living facility. The 59-unit Nikkei Home complex is the Lower Mainland's first subsidized non-profit supportive living development. The project was developed by the provincial government, in partnership with the federal government under the Canada-British Columbia Affordable Housing Program.

"The Government of Canada is working in partnership with the provincial government and other groups to bring quality affordable housing to people in B.C.," said Senator Mobina Jaffer on behalf of David Collenette, Minister of Transport and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). "Successes like Nikkei Home are key to developing strong communities, not just here in British Columbia but throughout Canada."

The National Nikkei Heritage Centre Society, through a grant from the Japanese Canadian Redress Foundation, provided land valued at \$1.6 million, as well as raising \$800,000 toward the capital costs of Nikkei Home. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation contributed \$885,000 through the Canada-British Columbia Affordable Housing Agreement.

The provincial government, through BC Housing, will contribute \$5.9 million for operating subsidies to the society over 35 years as part of the provincial housing program. The Fraser Health Authority will also contribute part of the capital costs and will provide operating funds for personal care services.

Nikkei Home provides a combination of affordable housing with services including meals, housekeeping, recreation and 24-hour response. Onsite staff will help with bathing, dressing and other personal care services funded by the Fraser Health Authority. Supportive living combines housing and services to help seniors with low to moderate incomes keep their independence, bridging the gap between home care and residential care.

"Our government is committed to improving health-care and housing options for seniors and people with disabilities," said Premier Gordon Campbell. "We understand that for those who can and want to live more independently, new, affordable solutions are needed. "Nikkei Home exemplifies the type of facility that is being developed through our Supportive Living BC program, which will create 3,500 housing units as part of this government's New Era commitment to provide 5,000 new spaces by 2006," added Campbell.

"After 20 years of planning, we are excited to finally open this much-needed seniors supportive housing facility," said Robert Nimi, president of the Nikkei Seniors Health Care and Housing Society. "Our society has made a real effort to stay in touch with seniors, and they tell us that Nikkei Home is the kind of housing they are looking for. They want independence, privacy, choices and dignity while receiving affordable health care and personal support, housekeeping and meals."

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Campbell, Jaffer and Nimi were joined by Katherine Whittred, Minister of State for Intermediate, Long Term and Home Care; and George Abbott, Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, at the opening of Nikkei Home at 6680 Southoaks Cres. Nikkei Home is part of Nikkei Place, a multi-service complex developed by the National Nikkei Heritage Centre Society. It will be open to all seniors in the Lower Mainland. The complex includes the National Nikkei Heritage Centre, the Nikkei Garden and the New Sakura-So seniors development subsidized by BC Housing and managed by the Nikkei Seniors Health Care Housing Society.

Nikkei Home was made possible by the Canada-British Columbia Affordable Housing Agreement. The Government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing, is contributing \$88.7 million under the agreement over the next five years towards affordable housing in this province. The provincial government through BC Housing will contribute \$29.7 million in operating subsidies annually as part of a strategy to provide a range of housing options for vulnerable British Columbians.

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