



PRESS RELEASE



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Governments Pool their Energies to Counter Homelessness

MONTRÉAL, Québec, October 7, 2002 - Jacques Côté, Québec's Minister for Housing and Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette, have inaugurated a new community and social housing project set up by La rue des femmes/Herstreet, an organization working with homeless women. The project includes a 20-room building and a multi-service centre for homeless women. The Mayor of Montréal, Gérald Tremblay, also attended the ceremony, along with the project's private sector partners.

The new home will provide temporary shelter for homeless women. Residents will have an opportunity to develop personal autonomy and empowerment skills through the home's psychosocial assistance services and appropriate community support.

The building, a brand new construction, required total investments of \$2.4 million and was made possible by contributions from public and private partners. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation paid a total of \$1,009,500 through the AccèsLogis Québec Shelter Enhancement Program component. The Québec government, for its part, offered financial assistance totalling \$511,500 mainly through the Société d'habitation du Québec and the Ministère des Affaires municipales et de la Métropole (Fonds de développement de la métropole). The City of Montréal also contributed by donating the site and paying for decontamination work, for a total of nearly \$389 000.

In addition, the government of Canada provided funding of \$925,700 through the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) of which \$425,700 will be used for operations.

The project received an overall contribution of \$115,000 from community partners, as well as amounts of \$400,000 and \$100,000 from Velan Inc. and the Montréal Rotary Club respectively, to help cover operating costs.

"This new community shelter project reflects the desire of the Québec government to find sustainable solutions to the situation of homeless women seeking accommodation and support as they strive to improve their welfare and take back control over their lives. The La Rue des femmes/Herstreet project is an excellent example of partnership between the private sector, community organizations, the municipal sector and government", said Jacques Côté.

"The financial assistance given to this women's shelter by the Canadian government is yet another major investment from the \$753 million budget set aside for the national homelessness and family violence strategy", said Céline Hervieux-Payette. "Clearly, the strategy is having a positive impact on Canadian communities."

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