



PRESS RELEASE



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Laurier Manor gives Seniors Independence and Support

PRINCE GEORGE, British Columbia, December 12, 2002 — Seniors with low- to moderate-incomes in Prince George have more housing and care options with today's opening of Laurier Manor, a 32-unit supportive seniors development at 2175 9th Ave. This project combines the contributions of the federal and provincial governments, through 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 the Honourable Herb Dhaliwal, Minister of Natural Resources, on behalf of the Honourable David Collenette, Minister of Transport and Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). "Successes like Laurier Manor are key to developing strong communities, not just here in British Columbia but throughout Canada."

"Laurier Manor is the type of seniors housing our government is committed to developing", said Katherine Whittred, Minister of State for Intermediate, Long Term and Home Care. "As part of our New Era commitment, we are providing 5,000 new intermediate and long-term care beds by 2006 in partnership with the non-profit and private sectors. Since June 2001, the province has opened 527 new independent living units with support services for seniors and people with disabilities and 561 new facility care beds across B.C."

"Seniors have told us they want to live in an environment that balances their desire for independence and privacy with ready access to support and personal care services", said Shirley Bond, Prince George-Mount Robson MLA, on behalf of George Abbott, Minister responsible for housing. "This development offers affordable housing and care that responds to the needs of seniors in this community."

Laurier Manor combines independent housing with support for seniors, which includes meals, housekeeping and 24-hour emergency response. The development also has a wellness co-ordinator and recreational programs including gardening and crafts. Six units are wheelchair accessible; the other 26 units are wheelchair adaptable. Seniors with low- to moderate-incomes will be able to rent these units for 30 per cent of their annual income. Tenants will pay an additional fee for meals and hospitality services.

The Northern Health Authority provided the land, valued at \$100,000 and a grant of \$504,000 toward some of the support services and will manage the development. The Government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, contributed \$480,000 toward the capital costs of this project. Through BC Housing, the provincial government will provide about \$4 million in operating subsidies to the Northern Health Authority over 35 years.

"Independent housing and support services help to bridge the gap between the family home and residential care", said Tim Rowe, regional director of home and community care services for the Northern Health Authority. "By offering a broad range of services in this new housing development, we are supporting the health and independence of seniors."

The Northern Health Authority manages 235 housing units in Prince George out of a total of 310 units in the region.

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Laurier Manor is made possible by the Canada-British Columbia Affordable Housing Program. The Government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, will contribute \$88.7 million over the next five years towards affordable housing in this province. The provincial government, through BC Housing, will provide \$29.7 million annually to subsidize the costs of units built under this agreement as part of a larger strategy to provide a range of housing options for vulnerable British Columbians.

This news release is available at www.bchousing.org.

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