



PRESS RELEASE



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Groundbreaking Launches Affordable Housing Project in Manchester

CALGARY, Alberta, October 2, 2003- A groundbreaking ceremony held today on the former Manchester School site signaled the start of construction of two new affordable housing buildings - for a total of 202 units for low-income singles, couples and seniors.

Calgary Mayor Dave Bronconnier and government representatives, Stan Woloshyn, Minister of Alberta Seniors; Elizabeth Huculak, General Manager, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), PNNWT Region attending on behalf of the Honourable Steven Mahoney, Secretary of State responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation; and Nadean Langlois, Director-General of Operations, Alberta Region, Western Economic Diversification Canada, unveiled an artist's rendering of the new buildings.

"This development will be a positive addition to the revitalization of the community and represents a partnership between governments at all levels to develop new affordable housing," said Secretary of State Mahoney. "It is an exciting component of the Government of Canada's commitment under the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Agreement."

"The Manchester Affordable Housing Project exemplifies the outstanding results that can be attained through the establishment of funding partnerships between three levels of government," said Stan Woloshyn, Minister of Seniors with responsibility for housing. "In one year from now, hundreds of lower-income Calgaryans will have access to new housing that is safe and affordable. This is significant for Calgary and sets the mark as to what the Alberta government hopes to accomplish in other high-growth communities under the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program."

"This project is a good start to reducing the need in Calgary for affordable rental housing for low-income earners and seniors," said Mayor Dave Bronconnier today. "The collaboration and funding support of this project from federal and provincial governments is significant. Calgary is a high-growth high-need municipality with significant affordable housing requirements. This project moves us closer to City Council's goal of providing 800 to 1,000 new units of affordable housing over five years."

Groundbreaking Signals the Start of Affordable Housing Construction...

Funding for the \$14.3 million* Manchester project (*excluding land value) includes \$9.15 million in federal and provincial monies under the Affordable Housing Partnership Initiative (AHPI); \$645,000 under the Infrastructure Canada-Alberta Program (ICAP) for infrastructure costs, and an additional \$800,000 contributed by Alberta Seniors from property sales proceeds. The City of Calgary is providing the land and the balance of the funding of \$3.7 million out of the Corporate Housing Capital Reserve.

The former Manchester school site presents a favorable location for an affordable housing project due to its proximity to employment opportunities, the Chinook LRT station, bus transit and shopping. This development will be a positive addition to the revitalization of the community.

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The Manchester affordable housing complex will be located at 300 - 57 Avenue SW. Occupancy of the buildings is anticipated to start in late fall 2004. The naming of the new buildings will take place at the official opening to be held in fall 2004.

For more information, visit The City of Calgary Web site at www.calgary.ca/corporateproperties

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