



## PRESS RELEASE



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### Samakhi Housing Cooperative

#### 39 New Housing Units in the Borough of Rivière-des-Prairies — Pointe-aux-Trembles — Montréal Est

**MONTREAL, Québec, October 25, 2003** — Yvon Charbonneau, Member of Parliament for Anjou — Rivière-des-Prairies, representing the Honourable Steven Mahoney, Secretary of State responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and Tony Tomassi, Member of the National Assembly for LaFontaine, on behalf of Jean-Marc Fournier, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Sports and Recreation, proceeded today with the inauguration of the Samakhi Housing Cooperative, in the presence of Cosmo Maciocia, Borough President, and Khampone Phanalasy, Chairman of the Samakhi Housing Cooperative. This new construction project is providing 39 new dwellings for families, single people and independent seniors.

This building, which required total investments of \$4.4M, was made possible by the participation of public partners. The development costs of \$2.6M are being assumed equally by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Société d'habitation du Québec and the sector. The federal financial contribution is being made under the Canada-Quebec Affordable Housing Agreement, which will ensure the development of 6,500 dwellings in Quebec.

"This housing cooperative symbolizes the partnerships created by governments in view of building affordable housing," stated Yvon Charbonneau, MP for Anjou. "Successes such as this one are essential to the development of strong communities, both in Quebec and across Canada."

"I am proud to rejoice at the accomplishment of this project that provides families, single people and independent seniors from the LaFontaine riding with more social and community housing, in order to improve their quality of life. This achievement is an excellent example of a successful partnership between the government, private and community sectors," indicated Tony Tomassi, MNA for LaFontaine.

Michel Prescott, Executive Committee Vice-Chairman responsible for housing issues with the City of Montréal, noted, in relation to this event, which he could unfortunately not attend, that "the Samakhi Housing Cooperative is an eloquent demonstration of the integration capacity of projects funded under the *Solidarité 5000 logements* operation, into the urban and social environments where they are developed."

Among the residents of the cooperative, 20 households benefit from the Rent Supplement Program, which provides financial assistance to low-income people who, without this additional support, would have to spend more than 25% of their income on their rent.

The development of this project embodies the will of all stakeholders to provide sustainable solutions to the specific problems encountered by families, seniors and single people in finding affordable housing.

It should be recalled that an Affordable Housing Agreement was signed on December 21, 2001, between the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec. This agreement provides for a total contribution of \$323.3M to

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increase the availability of affordable housing in Quebec, including \$161.65M from the federal government, \$104M from the Government of Quebec and \$57M from the municipalities that will benefit from the new program.

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