



PRESS RELEASE



Canadian Mortgage News - National Archive 2003

Nova Vita Women's Services Celebrates Major Renovations

BRANTFORD, Ontario, November 21, 2003 — Nova Vita Women's Services celebrated the official opening today of its newly renovated 30-bed shelter for women and their children who have experienced family violence. All levels of government provided funding to make the renovation and ongoing operation of Nova Vita a success.

"This project is an excellent example of how the Government of Canada is working with non-profit groups to help in providing safe and secure accommodations for victims of family violence," said Jane Stewart, Minister of Human Resources Development and Member of Parliament for Brant on behalf of the Honourable Steven Mahoney, Secretary of State responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Coordinator on Homelessness. "Federal strategies that deal with violence and family breakdown are helping those most in need at the community level."

"Preventing violence against women and children needs everyone's involvement," said Sandra Papatello, Ontario's Minister of Community and Social Services with Responsibility for Women's Issues. "This renovation project demonstrates the kind of strong partnerships we need — three levels of government, shelter staff and volunteers — to build strong, safe Ontario communities."

"It is exciting to see the Federal and the Provincial Governments working closely with the City of Brantford and our other partners to provide shelter and essential services for abused women and their children in our City", said Mayor elect of the City of Brantford, Mike Hancock.

"Our expansion project is the result of more than three years of hard work, planning and construction. We are so pleased that we can now help even more women and children in our community", said Joy Freeman, Executive Director of Nova Vita Women's Services. "We are grateful to all three levels of government whose cooperation and funding helped make our dream a reality. This expansion is making a real difference in the lives of women and children in Brantford and Brant County".

The Government of Canada provided over \$1.2 million towards the project through CMHC's Shelter Enhancement Program, and \$168,956 through the National Homelessness Initiative.

The Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP) assists in repairing, rehabilitating and improving existing shelters for victims of family violence; and in acquiring or building new shelters and second-stage housing where needed.

Building on the successes achieved during the first three years of the NHI, the February 2003 federal budget provided an additional \$405 million for three years to continue the Government's commitment to addressing homelessness in Canada.

The Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services provided \$590,000 in capital funding.

Canadian Mortgage News - Nova Vita Women's Services Celebrates Major Renovations

The City of Brantford and the County of Brant provided \$335,000 in funding and the Trillium Foundation provided \$75,000 in funding.

For further information, please contact:

Angelina Ritacco
CMHC
(416) 218-3332

Anne Machowski-Smith,
Ministry of Community and Social services
(416) 325-5156

Dan Temprile
City of Brantford, Commissioner of Social Services
(519) 759-3330

Charlene Nicholson
Nova Vita Women's Services
(519) 752-1005

Deborah Wallace
National Homelessness Initiative
(416) 954-7302