



PRESS RELEASE



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461 Social and Community Housing Units in Montréal

MONTRÉAL, Québec, March 15, 2004 — The Honourable Pierre Pettigrew, Minister of Health, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister responsible for Official Languages; Jean-Marc-Fournier, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Sports and Recreation; and Gérald Tremblay, Mayor of the City of Montréal, today participated in the official opening of 10 housing projects, which included 186 affordable housing units. They also took this opportunity to announce the construction of 5 more housing projects with a total of 275 units.

The chairpersons of the boards of directors of the following organizations were also present: P'tit train de Viauville, Maison des aînés Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Coopérative d'habitation Les Oasis, Inter-Loge Centre-Sud Dorion, Habitations Moreau/Adam, Coopérative d'habitation Main dans la main d'Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Coopérative d'habitation Grant Dufresne, Inter-Loge Centre-Sud Wurtele, Hébergement Jeunesse Le Tournant, Chambreville Montréal, Coopérative d'habitation La Porte du Bourg, Coopérative d'habitation Val-Perché and Inter-Loge Faubourg.

These housing projects were developed, at a cost of \$55 million, thanks to the involvement of public, community and private partners. The financial contributions for the purchase, renovation and construction of the housing projects and also for the rent supplement, which come to a total of \$36.4 million, were provided under the Affordable Housing Agreement signed between Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ). They are being funded in a proportion of 50 per cent by CMHC and 50 per cent by the SHQ and the community sector, including a contribution of \$8.8 million from the City of Montréal. The other costs are being funded by each of the organizations through mortgage loans secured by the Société d'habitation du Québec.

Among the housing project residents, 258 households can benefit from the Rent Supplement program, which provides financial assistance to low-income people who would otherwise have to spend more than 25 per cent of their income on housing.

"The Government of Canada is pleased to work with the province, the municipality and community representatives to meet the housing needs of Montréal citizens," said Minister Pettigrew. "The affordable housing units are a source of individual and collective pride. They enhance quality of life, stimulate commercial investment and contribute to the sustainable development of communities."

"In a context where rental housing is scarce, the situation requires the construction of social and community housing. I am therefore delighted with the development of these 461 units that will provide affordable housing for low-income seniors, families and individuals," indicated Minister Fournier.

"Public housing projects such as those that are being announced today will benefit Montréal as a whole. Such projects not only contribute to the revitalization of neighbourhoods and improve the quality of life of their residents, they also meet the specific needs of vulnerable client groups. This is a critical aspect of community development for a city that seeks to integrate and to support all of its inhabitants," said the Mayor of Montréal, Mr. Gérald Tremblay.

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The Affordable Housing Agreement was signed between CMHC and the SHQ. It provides for a total contribution of \$323.3 million to increase the supply of affordable housing in Quebec, with \$161.65 million from the federal government, \$104 from the Quebec government and \$57 million from the municipalities participating in the program.

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