



## PRESS RELEASE



*Canadian Mortgage News - National Archive 2004*

### **New Affordable Housing Project Opens in Edmonton's Inner City**

**EDMONTON, Alberta, March 29, 2004** — Edmonton's inner city has eight more units of affordable housing with the grand opening today of an Edmonton Inner City Housing Society project in Norwood. The project received \$400,000 under the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program.

The announcement was made on behalf of the Honourable Anne McLellan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and Member of Parliament for Edmonton West for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and by the Honourable Stan Woloshyn, Minister of Alberta Seniors with responsibility for housing.

"The Government of Canada is committed to creating more affordable housing, particularly in areas of high need", said Deputy Prime Minister McLellan. "We are pleased to be working in partnership with the provincial and municipal governments and the community to get this project completed. All Edmontonians can be very proud of the Edmonton Inner City Housing Society's continuing commitment to affordable housing."

"This project exemplifies a spirit of cooperation and shared responsibility that is essential to addressing the needs of low-income families through the provision of appropriate and safe accommodations." said Minister Woloshyn. "Through the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program, it is our hope to accelerate the development of more affordable housing projects in the inner-city."

The eight-unit project consists of two four-plex buildings with three-bedroom units for low-income families living in the inner city. The total project cost was approximately \$892,000. EICHS contributed over \$250,000 of its own funds towards the project including the cost of the land and the demolition of three derelict buildings.

In addition to the federal and provincial grants, other project partners included the Allen Family Fund (through the Edmonton Community Foundation), the Community Initiative Program, and the Low Income Housing Capital Assistance Program (LIHCAP) through the City of Edmonton. Vinterra Properties Inc. donated the time required for costing, design, and construction management and helped build the project at cost.

"This project is successful because of the strong relationships we have with our partners in the private sector, community, and government. The Community Plan on Homelessness identified as a high priority the need to provide affordable housing for families with low income. Together with our partners, we have addressed this priority and helped meet a real need in our community", said Sandeep Dhir, President of the Inner City Housing Society.

The Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program Agreement was signed in June 2002 and provides for a \$67.12 million federal contribution to be matched by the province and others to help increase the supply of low-cost housing in high growth, high need communities.

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Since signing the agreement, the federal government and the province have allocated more than \$42.7 million towards 21 projects consisting of 1,038 affordable housing units in Calgary, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Red Deer, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Cochrane, and Brooks, as well as in the northern remote communities of Conklin and Janvier.

Funding under the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program Agreement is provided in the form of capital grants on a project-by-project basis. For more details, visit the Alberta Seniors Web site at: [www.seniors.gov.ab.ca](http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca).

**Media are invited to attend the ceremony, which will include a photo opportunity.**

**Event location:** 11269 - 95 Street Edmonton

**Time:** 12:00 p.m. Monday, March 29, 2004

**For more information, contact:**

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