



PRESS RELEASE



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10 New Social and Community Housing Units in Kamouraska-Témiscouata

QUÉBEC CITY, Québec, May 10, 2004 — The Honourable Dr. Gilbert Normand, M.P. for Bellechasse-Et-chemins-Montmagny-L'Islet, and Claude Béchar, Minister of Employment, Social Solidarity and Family Welfare and M.N.A. for Kamouraska-Témiscouata, on behalf of Jean-Marc Fournier, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Sports and Recreation, announced that financial assistance is being provided to La Maisonnée Saint-Pascal for the development of 10 housing units intended for low-income families.

This housing project, for which the construction costs are estimated at \$870,983, will be developed thanks to the involvement of public, community and private partners. The financial contributions for this project, which come to a total of \$697,659, will be 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 shared in a proportion of 50 per cent by CMHC and an equivalent 50 per cent by the SHQ and the community sector.

It should be mentioned that the community contribution comes to a total of \$202,472, including \$170,000 from the municipality of Saint-Pascal, \$10,000 from the Caisse populaire Desjardins and \$5,000 from the Centre local de développement. The other costs are being assumed by the organization through a mortgage loan secured by the Société d'habitation du Québec. La Maisonnée Saint-Pascal was also able to count on the services of the Habitation populaire de la Côte-de-Sud technical resource group.

Among the residents, 5 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 government of Quebec, the municipality and community representatives to meet the housing needs of Quebec citizens," said Dr. Normand. "Social 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."

"I am delighted with the construction of these 10 new dwellings that will enable low-income families to improve their housing conditions. This project is an excellent example of a successful partnership between governments, the community sector and the municipality," indicated Minister Béchar.

The Affordable Housing Agreement was signed between CMHC and the SHQ in December 2001. 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 million from the Quebec government and \$57 million from the municipalities participating in the program.

Sources:

Patricia Lord

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Communications Advisor Société d'habitation du Québec

(418) 644-2024

Marie-Chantale Lortie

Communications and Marketing CMHC

(514) 496-4025

Information:

Stéphane Gosselin

Press Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Sports and Recreation

(418) 691-2050