



PRESS RELEASE



Canadian Mortgage News - National Archive 2004

HLM Place Jacola in Val-d'Or — \$4.4M for the Reconstruction of 40 Housing Units

VAL-D'OR, Québec, September 13, 2004 — The Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing, Mr. Jean-Marc Fournier, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Sports and Recreation, and Mr. Fernand Trahan, Mayor of Val-d'Or, announced today the allocation of a \$4.4M budget to the Val-d'Or Municipal Housing Bureau for the gradual demolition and reconstruction of the 40 low-rent housing units occupied by families of the HLM Place Jacola in Val-d'Or. This replacement work has become necessary as a result of construction problems that created moisture and ventilation difficulties causing the 10 buildings of the HLM Place Jacola to deteriorate over the years.

Developed jointly by the Val-d'Or Municipal Housing Bureau (MHB) and the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ), and funded with the collaboration of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the SHQ, the Val-d'Or MHB and the municipality of Val-d'Or, the work schedule will be spread out over about four years. As well, during the work, the tenants will be successively rehoused on the local private rental market thanks to the Rent Supplement program. This gradual approach will help facilitate the transition for the tenants, while permitting to spread out the expenses of the Val-d'Or MHB affecting its repair, modernization and improvement budget.

"I am proud of the result of the excellent collaboration between CMHC, the province, the municipality and community representatives in order to provide quality housing to the residents of the HLM Place Jacola," said Minister Fontana.

"I am delighted that we were finally able to find a solution that will make it possible to provide the 40 families of the HLM Place Jacola with suitable dwellings comparable to those found throughout the low-rent housing stock elsewhere across Quebec. With the determination of the MHB and the tenants' association, along with the valuable cooperation and openness of our federal partner, CMHC, we can now undertake the necessary corrective actions. Once again, the strength of partnership has produced results and allowed us to provide adequate housing units to people who most need them," indicated Minister Jean-Marc Fournier.

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