



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **24 New Social and Community Housing Units in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu**

**SAINT-JEAN-SUR-RICHELIEU, Québec, September 23, 2004** — The Honourable Jacques Saada, Minister of the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec and Minister responsible for the Francophonie, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing; Mr. Jean Rioux the Member of the National Assembly for Iberville, on behalf of Mr. Jean-Marc Fournier, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Sports and Recreation; Mr. Gilles Dolbec, Mayor of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu; and Mr. Jean-Paul Normandin, chairman of the board of directors of La Seigneurie d'Iberville inc. are pleased to announce today that financial assistance is being granted to the residence La Seigneurie d'Iberville. This residence is providing 24 new adapted dwellings for persons with disabilities.

La Seigneurie d'Iberville, which required investments of more than \$2.3M, was developed thanks to the participation of public, private and community partners. Funding for the construction work, totalling \$1,542,768, was provided under the Affordable Housing Agreement in a proportion of 50% by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and 50% by the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ) and the community, including a contribution of \$100,000 from the Regroupement des personnes handicapées du Haut-Richelieu inc. and an amount of \$240,000 from the municipality of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu. The other costs are being assumed by the organization "La Seigneurie d'Iberville inc." through a mortgage loan secured by the SHQ.

"The Government of Canada is pleased to work with the Government of Quebec, the municipality and community representatives to meet the housing needs of the citizens of the Haut-Richelieu region," said Minister Saada. "Adapted dwellings enable persons with disabilities to be better integrated in their environment. These homes enhance their quality of life and contribute to the sustainable development of communities."

"It is with pride that I rejoice in the completion of this project, which allows persons with disabilities in the riding of Iberville to benefit from adapted homes in order to improve their quality of life, while letting them stay in their community. This is an excellent example of a successful partnership between governments, the community and the private sector," indicated M.N.A. Rioux.

Among the residents, 12 households can benefit from the Rent Supplement program, which provides financial assistance from the Société d'habitation du Québec for low-income individuals who would otherwise have to spend more than 25% of their income on housing.

Ministers Fontana and Fournier signed an agreement, in August 2004, concerning additional funding for affordable housing, as Quebec became the first province to sign such an agreement. This new agreement provides for a total contribution of \$150M to increase the availability of affordable housing in Quebec. The federal contribution will be \$74.9M, with an equivalent amount being provided by the Government of Quebec and the municipalities participating in the program.

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