



PRESS RELEASE



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Official Opening of Habitations Saint-Stanislas

5 New Social and Community Housing Units in Saint-Stanislas

SAINT-STANISLAS, Québec, October 4, 2004 — Senator Michel Biron, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing, Jean-Pierre Soucy, MNA for Portneuf, on behalf of Jean-Marc Fournier, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Sports and Recreation, Jean-Marc Beaudoin, Pro-Mayor of Saint-Stanislas, and Serge Béland, Chair of the Réseau d'habitation communautaire de la Mauricie officially opened the Habitations Saint-Stanislas project, which is providing 5 new housing units for people with mental health problems who are reintegrating into their community.

The purchase and renovation of the building, which required investments of more than \$435,000, were made possible thanks to the participation of public, private and community partners. Financial contributions for the project, totalling \$256,445, were provided under the Affordable Housing Agreement in a proportion of 50 per cent by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and 50 per cent by the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ) and the community. This project also benefited from the financial support of the National Homelessness Initiative (NHI), receiving a sum of \$130,000. The other costs are being assumed by the organization through a mortgage loan secured by the SHQ.

"An adequate home is one of the factors conducive to greater independence and a better quality of life," pointed out Senator Biron. "Thanks to the flexibility of the Affordable Housing Agreement, the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec were able to work together with the municipality and members of the community to develop this project and provide this new living environment to the residents of Saint-Stanislas."

"I am delighted with the development of these new housing units that provide accommodation adapted to the specific needs of the people and give them support in their endeavour to improve their well-being and take control of their living conditions. This is an excellent example of a successful partnership between the private sector, the community, the municipality and governments," said Mr. Soucy.

Among the residents, 5 households can benefit from the Rent Supplement program, which provides financial assistance to low-income individuals who would otherwise have to spend more than 25 per cent of their income on housing.

The development of this project is part of the Government of Quebec's initiative to produce 16,000 social, community and private housing units for low- and moderate-income households. This initiative is notably supported by federal funds made available under Affordable Housing Agreements.

In fact, it should be recalled that Ministers Fontana and Fournier signed an agreement, in August 2004, concerning additional funding for the second phase of the Affordable Housing Program, as Quebec became the first province to sign such an agreement. This makes for a total contribution of \$150M to increase the availability of affordable housing in Quebec. The federal contribution is \$75M, with an equivalent amount being provided by the Government of Quebec and the municipalities participating in the program.

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