



PRESS RELEASE



Canadian Mortgage News - National Archive 2004

Hope Haven Shelter Opens Today

LAC LA BICHE, Alberta, October 21, 2004 — Hope Haven Shelter celebrated the official opening of its expanded 7 unit, 21-bed women's shelter today. The new facility provides access to much-needed services that will help women and their children lead more independent, active and secure lives.

The Honourable Anne McLellan, Deputy Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing, the Honourable Iris Evans, Minister of Children's Services, and His Worship Duane Young praised the collaborative efforts of the shelter and its funding partners.

"This project is an excellent example of how the Government of Canada is working with local groups to help provide safe, secure accommodations for victims of family violence," said Deputy Prime Minister McLellan. "Dealing with violence and family breakdown will help those most in need at the community level."

"For more than 13 years, Hope Haven has been on the front line helping heal families who have experienced violence," said Minister Evans. "I'm delighted to see government and community partners working together to help Hope Haven serve more families. This kind of collaboration, as we heard during the Alberta Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying, can and will make a difference in this area for many years to come."

Funding contributors include: CMHC (\$564,369 contribution through the Shelter Enhancement Program), the Alberta Lotteries Community Facility Enhancement Program and Community Initiatives Program, the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation, Lakeland County, the Town of Lac La Biche, Alberta Human Resources and Employment, the Wild Rose Foundation, Alberta Pacific Forest Industries, and the Edmonton Oilers Ladies Association.

Hope Haven provides on-site programs, counselling services and 24-hour security for women and children who have experienced family violence. The new, two-story facility was designed with the needs of clients in mind. In addition to kitchen, dining, bedroom, and laundry facilities, the shelter also features a child-care area, a space for clients with teen-aged children, a multi-use office for visiting agencies, and a group therapy room.

Cassandra Putnam, Executive Director of Hope Haven, recognized the project as an example of what governments, community organizations, the private sector and concerned citizens can do when they work together in partnership.

"Violence in the home is a community issue that calls for a community response," said Putnam. "Our old building was stretched to the limit, so it's heartening to have all of the people and programs come together to make this much-needed expansion a reality. We're looking forward to providing shelter, services and support to the families who seek our assistance in a manner which affords peace, dignity and respect to all."

For more information, contact:

Canadian Mortgage News - Hope Haven Shelter Opens Today

Jason Cobb
CMHC Communications
Tel: (403) 515-2903

Lorelei Fiset-Cassidy
Alberta Children's Services
(780) 427-4801 (toll-free 310-0000)

Cassandra Putnam
Hope Haven Shelter
Tel: (780) 623-3104

Backgrounder

Proponent: Hope Haven Shelter Society.

Project Location: Lac La Biche, Alberta

Target Clients: Women and children who are victims of family violence

Number of Units: 7 units, or 21 Beds

Total Project Cost: \$1,324,572

Project funding:

CMHC Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP) — \$564,369
Alberta Lotteries — Community Facility Enhancement Program — \$125,000
Alberta Lotteries — Community Initiatives Program - \$74,073.00 (landscaping, not included in total cost)
Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation — \$58,160.00
Lakeland County — \$57,000.00
Town of Lac La Biche — \$50,000.00 (land donation)
AB H R & E - Job Corp (Labour) — \$50,000.00
Wild Rose Foundation — \$50,000.00
Alberta Pacific Forest Industries — \$25,000.00
Edmonton Oilers Ladies Association — \$8,160.00

Contact:

Cassandra Putnam, Executive Director
Hope Haven Shelter
Ph: (780) 623-3104

For more information, contact:

Jason Cobb
CMHC Communications
Ph: (403) 515-2903

Lorelei Fiset-Cassidy
Alberta Children's Services
(780) 427-4801 (toll-free 310-0000)