



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **25 New Housing Units for Seniors in Saint-Félicien**

**SAINT-FÉLICIEN, Québec, October 22, 2004** — Seniors in Saint-Félicien will soon have more affordable housing options thanks to the construction of 25 new housing units. The expansion of the Manoir Renaissance was officially opened today.

This announcement was made during a ceremony by Senator Aurélien Gill, on behalf of the Honourable Joseph Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing; Karl Blackburn, MNA for Roberval, on behalf of Jean-Marc Fournier, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Sports and Recreation; Bertrand Côté, Mayor of Saint-Félicien; and Léger Simard, Chairman of the Coopérative d'habitation des aînés de Saint-Félicien.

The expansion of the Manoir Renaissance (phase II of the project), which required investments of over \$1.9M, was made possible thanks to the participation of public, private and community partners. Financial contributions for the project, totalling \$1,297,218, were granted under the Affordable Housing Agreement. An amount of \$648,609 was provided by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), with an equivalent sum coming from the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ) and the community, including a contribution of \$130,000 from the municipality of Saint-Félicien. The other costs are being assumed by the organization through a mortgage loan secured by the SHQ.

"Affordable housing is a priority for the Government of Canada, and we are pleased to work with the Government of Quebec, the municipality and community representatives for this purpose," said Senator Gill. "The new housing units officially opened today provide seniors with a quality environment and foster their integration into their community, while promoting commercial investment in the region."

"The development of the 25 new housing units in the Manoir Renaissance is a concrete gesture made by the community in its will to enable seniors to benefit from adequate housing while remaining in their community. What is more, this residence is an excellent example of a successful partnership between governments, the municipality and the community sector," said Mr. Blackburn.

Among the residents, 12 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% 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.

It should be recalled that an Affordable Housing Agreement was signed between CMHC and the SHQ in 2001. It provides for a total contribution of \$323.3M to increase the supply of affordable housing in Quebec, with \$161.65M from the federal government, \$104M from the Quebec government and \$57M from the municipalities participating in the program

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Ministers Fontana and Fournier also signed a second 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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(Left to right) Karl Blackburn, MNA for Roberval, Senator Aurélien Gill, Léger Simard, Chairman of the Coopérative d'habitation Manoir Renaissance, and Bertrand Côté, Mayor of Saint-Félicien