



PRESS RELEASE



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New Supportive Housing for Seniors in Surrey

SURREY, British Columbia, November 9, 2004 — Over 100 new supportive housing units are now available to moderate-income seniors with the expansion of Kiwanis Park Place, 12850 - 26 Avenue, Surrey. With the 111 units officially opened today, the development offers a total of 257 apartments for seniors and people with disabilities.

"Today's announcement is about helping more seniors and disabled persons live in their own homes," noted the Honourable Joseph Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing. "These affordable housing units mark a new start for these people, their families and the community and contribute to the success and sustainability of our cities and the well-being of its residents."

Kiwanis Park Place is managed by Crescent Housing Society, which also provided the land, valued at over \$4.8 million for the development's expansion. The society has taken out a mortgage on the new development, which will be covered through monthly rent charges. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) provided mortgage insurance on the loan and the provincial government, through BC Housing, contributed a \$600,000 grant. The Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia also partnered with Crescent Housing Society, providing a grant in the amount of \$75,000, to assist with the creation and development of new, supportive, affordable seniors housing in our community.

"Kiwanis Park Place is an innovative partnership between the federal and provincial governments and Crescent Housing Society to provide supportive housing to seniors in their own community," said Surrey-Cloverdale MLA Kevin Falcon. "The development demonstrates how the government is responding to housing needs and partnering with local housing societies to better accommodate seniors."

All apartments in the new development are one-bedroom and wheelchair accessible. Residents have access to on-site crafts, exercise facilities, meeting rooms and lounges. Services offered include an evening meal program twice a week, home deliveries from the library, and 24-hour emergency response.

"Crescent Housing Society has been working on the expansion of Kiwanis Park Place for several years," said society President Victor Curtis. "Our goal was to build housing that was cost-effective; providing features that would assist seniors to stay active and independent. We are located next to beautiful Crescent Park and our tenants have good access to shopping, community centres and medical services."

This year the provincial government has increased funding for housing programs to more than \$154.4 million, the largest level ever in B.C. The provincial government, through BC Housing, has committed funding for the construction of about 6,900 housing units across B.C. since June 2001. To date, about 3,500 of these units have been completed and 2,200 are under development. In addition, another 898 affordable housing units have been created through partnership funding to community groups like Crescent Housing Society in order to increase housing options for British Columbians in need.

This news release is available at www.bchousing.org online.

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Backgrounder: Kiwanis Park Place

Location: 12850 — 26 Avenue, Surrey

Number of new units: 111 one-bedroom units of supportive seniors housing.

The new development is an expansion of Kiwanis Park Place's existing 146-unit complex for a total of 257 apartments with support services for moderate-income seniors and people with disabilities.

All the new units are wheelchair accessible. Common areas include a fully-equipped kitchen for events, a recreation room, meeting room, an exercise room with a wheelchair access shower, a ceramics room with kiln, a multi-purpose room and lounges throughout the complex.

The Kiwanis Park Place complex was constructed in a series of phases, beginning in 1957. Further phases were added in 1964 and 1977. The series of structures amounted to 172 self-contained apartments: a 146-unit building and three buildings with 26 units. The three smaller buildings were torn down in 2003 and replaced with the new 111-unit building.

Housing Society

Crescent Housing Society manages Kiwanis Park Place. This non-profit organization is governed by an elected volunteer board to develop affordable housing for low-income seniors. Members of the Kiwanis Club of White Rock established the society in 1957 to building the original Kiwanis Village development (now renamed Kiwanis Park Place).

The Kiwanis Club of White Rock is part of Kiwanis International, founded in 1915, to improve life for children and families worldwide through a wide range of programs offered and/or supported by volunteer members.

Partnership Contributions

- Crescent Housing Society provided the land, valued at over \$4.8 million.
- The federal government provided mortgage insurance as well as an interest-free loan of \$74,600 for proposal development funding.
- The provincial government contributed a \$600,000 grant.
- The Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia provided a \$75,000 grant to assist with the creation and development of new, supportive, affordable seniors housing in our community.