



**PRESS RELEASE**



*Canadian Mortgage News - National Archive 2004*

## **47 Social and Community Housing Units in Saint-Basile-le-Grand**

**SAINT-BASILE-LE-GRAND, Québec, November 22, 2004** — Low-income families and individuals in Saint-Basile-le-Grand now have more affordable housing options thanks to the construction of 47 new housing units.

This announcement was made today by the Honourable Jacques Saada, Minister of the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec and Minister responsible for La Francophonie, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing, and Diane Legault, MNA for Chambly, on behalf of Jean-Marc Fournier, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Sports and Recreation. Diane Legault, MNA for Chambly, Bernard Gagnon, Mayor of Saint-Basile-le-Grand, and Lucette Duquet, Chair of the Saint-Basile-le-Grand housing bureau, were present at the inauguration ceremony.

These two residences, for which the development costs are over \$4M, were completed thanks to the participation of public, private, and community partners. Financial contributions for their construction, totalling \$2,864,125, are being made under the Affordable Housing Agreement signed between Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ).

CMHC is providing \$1,432,063 in financial assistance, while the SHQ is contributing a sum of \$777,368 to the housing projects. These projects are also benefiting from contributions from the community sector, including an amount from the municipality of Saint-Basile-le-Grand, of \$654,695. The other costs are being assumed by the organization through a mortgage loan secured by the SHQ.

Among the residents of the housing projects, 10 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.

"These two projects will allow 47 households in Saint-Basile-le-Grand to live in a quality environment at an affordable cost and start a new page in their lives," said Minister Saada. "Affordable housing is a priority for the Government of Canada, and we are pleased to work in cooperation with the Government of Quebec, the municipality, and community sector representatives to enable more people to find housing and thereby contribute to the development of their region."

"I am delighted with the construction of the housing units of Résidence Justine-Trudeau and Résidence Julie-Viger, which will allow low-income families and individuals, as well as seniors, to improve their housing conditions, while remaining in their community. This development is an excellent example of a successful partnership between governments, the municipality and the community sector," added MNA Legault.

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 the Affordable Housing Agreement.

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It should be recalled, in fact, 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.

### **Sources:**

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