



PRESS RELEASE



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Inauguration of Résidence du Fort — 36 New Housing Units for Seniors in Coteau-du-Lac

COTEAU-DU-LAC, Québec, November 22, 2004 — Seniors now have more affordable housing options thanks to the construction of 36 new housing units on Gaudreau Boulevard, in Coteau-du-Lac.

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 Lucie Charlebois, MNA for Soulanges, on behalf of Jean-Marc Fournier, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Sports and Recreation. Lucie Charlebois, MNA for Soulanges, Robert Sauvé, Mayor of Coteau-du-Lac, and Robert Doucet, Chair of the organization, were present at the inauguration ceremony.

Résidence du Fort, for which the development costs are over \$3.2M, was completed thanks to the participation of public, private, and community partners. Financial contributions for the development of this project, totalling \$2,360,037, 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 \$1,180,019 in financial assistance, while the SHQ is contributing a sum of \$682,150 to the housing project. This project is also benefiting from a contribution from the community sector, including the municipality of Coteau-du-Lac, in the amount of \$497,869. The other costs are being assumed by the organization through a mortgage loan secured by the SHQ.

"The 36 new housing units inaugurated today will provide seniors with a quality environment that will allow them to stay in their community, near their families and friends, while contributing to the development of their region," 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 provide more people with better housing in their community."

"The development of the 36 housing units of Résidence du Fort is a concrete gesture made by the community in its will to enable seniors to benefit from adequate housing while remaining in their community. As well, this residence is an excellent example of a successful partnership between governments, the municipality, and the community sector," said Ms. Charlebois.

Among the residents, 18 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 the Affordable Housing Agreement.

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.

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