



PRESS RELEASE



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Partners Create More Affordable Housing in London

LONDON, Ontario, November 26, 2004 — A sod-turning ceremony was held today to mark the beginning of construction for a \$12 million affordable housing project in the City of London.

The project, including \$2.43 million from the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program, will provide 90 apartments of affordable housing for low-income residents in London.

The Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing, Deb Matthews, MPP London North Centre, and London Mayor Anne Marie DeCicco, attended today's ceremony.

"Today's investment demonstrates the Government of Canada's commitment to provide affordable housing for those Canadians who need it most," said the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing. "We are pleased to be working with the Province and the City to help build the Homes Unlimited project and in turn, create healthy, sustainable communities right here in London."

"The McGuinty government has a new vision for affordable housing in Ontario," said MPP Deb Matthews. "It's a vision that is inclusive, that is based upon cooperation rather than confrontation, and one that sees a vital role for the provincial government in protecting tenants, and building and preserving affordable housing for needy people in Ontario."

"This is extremely welcome news for all Londoners, as we strive to combat homelessness in our community," says London Mayor Anne Marie DeCicco. "Although the critical need for affordable housing is a national issue, the City of London committed long ago to being part of the solution, and this project is part of our commitment to addressing this issue."

"It's been almost 10 years since an affordable rental housing project took shape in London, and Homes Unlimited is pleased the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario, along with the City of London, provided the funding to make this project possible," said Greg Playford, President of the Board for Homes Unlimited. "This will be a safe and affordable home for families, singles and disabled persons wanting to live in the core area of London."

The 13 storey, 90-unit project in downtown London is sponsored by Homes Unlimited, a charitable, non-profit corporation founded in 1972 to provide affordable housing for families in London. Upon completion in March 2006, the project will consist of an apartment building as well as townhouse units, with approximately 50 per cent of the tenants paying rent geared to their income.

The City of London is also providing assistance to offset development charges and other fees.

In the City of London, the Government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), has contributed \$2.25 million through the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program Agreement.

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The projects are a part of a five-year commitment that will create affordable housing units in Ontario. This partnership combines Government of Canada funding of \$245 million with matching contributions of the Government of Ontario, municipalities and other private and non-profit partners.

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Greg Playford, President of Homes Unlimited; Orma Gibson, Founder of Homes Unlimited; the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing; Anne Marie DeCicco, Mayor of London and MPP Deb Matthews