



PRESS RELEASE



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Official Opening of Les Habitations Solid'Aires

32 New Social and Community Housing Units in Blainville

BLAINVILLE, Québec, February 1, 2005 — Low-income families now have more affordable housing options thanks to the construction of 32 new housing units on Curé-Labelle Boulevard in Blainville.

This announcement was made today by the Honourable Liza Frulla, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Minister responsible for Status of Women, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing, and by Pierre Descoteaux, MNA for Groulx on behalf of Jean-Marc Fournier, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Sports and Recreation. Pierre Descoteaux, MNA for Groulx, Pierre Gingras, Mayor of Blainville, and Lise Nantel, Chair of the organization, were present at the official opening ceremony.

Les Habitations Solid'Aires, which required investments of more than \$2.8 million dollars, was developed thanks to the participation of public, private, and community partners. Financial contributions for the development of this project, totalling \$1,918,464, are being made under the Affordable Housing Agreement, in a proportion of 50 per cent by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and 50 per cent by the Société d'habitation du Québec and the community. The community is contributing \$438,140, including \$386,790 from the municipality of Blainville. The other costs are being assumed by the organization through a mortgage loan secured by the Société d'habitation du Québec.

"The Government of Canada is pleased to work with the province, the municipality and community representatives to meet the housing needs of Blainville citizens," said Ms. Frulla. "The social and community housing units are a source of individual and collective pride. They enhance quality of life, stimulate commercial investment and contribute to the sustainable development of communities."

"I am delighted with the development of this project that is providing Blainville residents with more social and community housing units to improve their quality of life. This project is an excellent example of a successful partnership between the community, the municipality and governments," said Mr. Descoteaux.

Within this project, 16 households will 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 Affordable Housing Agreements.

Ministers Fontana and Fournier signed an agreement, in August 2004, concerning additional funding for the second phase of the Affordable Housing Program. Quebec became the first province to sign such an agreement. This makes for a total contribution of \$150 million dollars to increase the availability of affordable housing in Quebec. The federal contribution is \$75 million dollars, with an equivalent amount being provided by the Government of Quebec and the

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municipalities participating in the program.

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