



PRESS RELEASE



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12 New Social and Community Housing Units in Howick and Sainte-Martine

HOWICK, Québec, March 21, 2005 — Low-income families now have more affordable housing options thanks to the renovation and construction of 12 units, in Howick and Sainte-Martine. These two projects of Les Habitations de la Vallée des Tisserands, which required investments of more than \$930,000, were developed thanks to the participation of public, private, and community partners.

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 the Francophonie, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing; and by André Chenail, MNA for Huntingdon, on behalf of Nathalie Normandeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Regions. André Chenail, MNA for Huntingdon; Denyse Touchette, Howick Councillor; Yves Laberge, Sainte-Martine Councillor; and Jeanne Demers, Treasurer for the Board of Directors of Les Habitations de la Vallée des Tisserands, were present at the inauguration ceremony.

Financial contributions for the development of these projects, totalling \$628,511, are being made under the Affordable Housing Agreement, in a proportion of 50 per cent by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and 50 per cent by the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ) and the community. The community is contributing \$121,237, including \$107,237 from the municipalities of Howick and Sainte-Martine, and \$14,000 from the CLD du Haut-Saint-Laurent. The other costs are being assumed by the organization through a mortgage loan secured by the SHQ.

"The Government of Canada is pleased to work with the province, the municipality and community sector representatives to meet the housing needs of the citizens of Howick and Sainte-Martine," said Minister Saada. "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 these projects that are providing Howick and Sainte-Martine residents with more social and community housing units to improve their living conditions. These projects are excellent examples of successful partnerships between the community, the municipalities and the government," said Mr. Chenail.

Among the residents, seven 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 these projects 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.

It should be recalled that an Affordable Housing Agreement was signed between CMHC and the SHQ in 2001. It provides for a total contribution of \$323.3M to increase the supply of affordable housing in Quebec, with \$161.65M

Canadian Mortgage News - 12 New Social and Community Housing Units in Howick and Sainte-Martine from the federal government, \$104M from the Quebec government and \$57M from the municipalities participating in the program.

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