



PRESS RELEASE



Canadian Mortgage News - National Archive 2005

26 New Social and Community Housing Units in Saint-Constant

SAINT-CONSTANT, Québec, March 21, 2005 — Low-income families now have more affordable housing options thanks to the construction of 26 new units in Saint-Constant. Les Habitations Logis-Ciel, which required investments of more than \$2.7M, 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 Jean Dubuc, MNA for La Prairie, on behalf of Nathalie Normandeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Regions. Michel Belval, political attaché for Jean Dubuc, MNA for La Prairie; Daniel Ashby, Mayor of Saint-Constant; and Fleurette Cardinal, Chair of the Board of Directors of Les Habitations Logis-Ciel, were present at the inauguration ceremony.

Financial contributions for the development of this project, totalling \$1,815,765, 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 municipality of Saint-Constant, which is contributing \$353,258. The other costs are being assumed by the organization through a mortgage loan secured by the SHQ.

"The Government of Canada is working on many fronts to address the housing needs of Canadians," said Minister Saada. "The strength of our communities rests on housing, which is one of the foundations upon which healthy communities and individual dignity are built."

"The construction of these 26 new dwellings will provide Saint-Constant families with more social and community housing units to improve their living conditions. This project is an excellent example of a successful partnership between the community, the municipality and the government," said Mr. Dubuc.

Among the residents, 13 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 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 from the federal government, \$104M from the Quebec government and \$57M from the municipalities participating in the program.

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