



PRESS RELEASE



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Two Affordable Housing Projects Underway in Brantford

BRANTFORD, Ontario, May 25, 2005 — The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the City of Brantford today launched two affordable housing projects that will create 78 units of affordable housing in Brantford under the Canada/Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held to mark the start of construction on a project that will receive \$1.4 million to create 51 units of affordable housing. In addition, \$830,000 in funding was announced for a second project that will create 27 units of affordable housing.

The announcement was made at the groundbreaking ceremony attended by the Honourable Lloyd St. Amand, Member of Parliament for Brant, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing; Dave Levac, MPP Brant, on behalf of the Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; and Brantford Mayor Mike Hancock.

"Affordable Housing is a fundamental building block for inclusive, prosperous and healthy families and communities," said MP St. Amand. "The project announced today shows what can be accomplished when the Government of Canada works collaboratively with non-profit groups, community organizations, the private sector and different levels of government, including the City of Brantford."

"Affordable housing is fundamental to the well-being, vitality and strength of families and the communities in which they live," said Mr. Levac. "The McGuinty government is committed to ensuring safe, affordable housing for the people of our province."

The groundbreaking ceremony was held at 24 Harris Avenue in Brantford. The \$4.1 million project, including \$1.4 million from the Canada/Ontario Affordable Housing Program, will provide 51 apartments. The project is sponsored by Multani Custom Homes Ltd., and the units will be occupied by families, seniors and single persons with lower-incomes.

As well, an \$830,000 allocation was made to the City of Brantford under the Canada/Ontario Affordable Housing Program to fund a 27-unit project at 40 Queen Street. The project is sponsored by the Brantford YM-YWCA Non-Profit Homes Association. The units will be occupied by single persons with lower-incomes.

"I am very pleased to welcome these two new housing developments to the City of Brantford," said Mayor Hancock. "Not only will they increase our housing supply at a time when vacancy rates are falling, but will assist with downtown revitalization and inner city renewal."

The federal and provincial allocation under the Canada/Ontario Affordable Housing Program will be complemented by \$1.8 million from the City of Brantford, plus other municipal financial incentives for these two projects.

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In the City of Brantford, the Government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), has contributed \$1.9 million to two projects under the Canada/Ontario Affordable Housing Program Agreement.

The new federal-provincial agreement, signed on April 29, 2005, comprises a commitment of \$301 million from each of the two levels of government. With this commitment, the federal, provincial and municipal governments will have invested \$734 million over the life of the Canada/-Ontario Affordable Housing Program Agreement, to assist some 20,000 Ontario households.

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