



PRESS RELEASE



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Housing Project for Persons with Disabilities Gets Underway in Rocky Mountain House

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE, Alberta, May 27, 2005 — A special ground-breaking ceremony marked the start of construction of a new affordable housing project for local residents with disabilities. Funding for the affordable housing project includes \$230,000 in federal and provincial monies under the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program (CAAP); and \$95,000 from the municipality of Rocky Mountain House.

Today's announcement was made by the Honourable Anne McLellan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing; the Honourable Ty Lund, Minister of Government Services; Mayor Jim Bague; and Mr. Dwight Oliver, Reeve for Clearwater County.

"Residents of Rocky Mountain House with disabilities required assistance in finding affordable housing," said Minister McLellan. "This new development is the result of the Government of Canada and its partners listening to the needs of these Albertans and providing the necessary help."

"This is a great example of how the community, the private sector and the various levels of government can work together to meet local needs," said Alberta Seniors and Community Supports Minister Yvonne Fritz. "The Government of Alberta is proud to be a partner in helping provide inclusive affordable housing options for residents of Rocky Mountain House."

"On behalf of our citizens of Rocky Mountain House and area, we congratulate COPE and wish them well in this much needed project and the opportunity that they are providing for local residents with disabilities," said Rocky Mountain House Mayor Jim Bague. "We would also like to acknowledge the assistance provided by the federal and provincial governments through the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Partnership."

The project consists of eight units of affordable housing for adults with disabilities: five units specifically targeted towards seniors with developmental disabilities such as Alzheimer's or dementia, and three units for more independent individuals. The project is scheduled for completion in December.

Affordable housing is a priority for all levels of government, and accordingly, funding for this initiative will be provided by the governments of Canada, Alberta and the Town of Rocky Mountain House.

COPE Rocky Mountain House Society for Persons with Disabilities receives support from the Red Deer & District Community Foundation, PDD Clearwater District Council, the Alberta Lottery Board and the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Partnership Initiative.

Since the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program Agreement was signed in June 2002, more than \$109 million has been allocated towards the creation of 2,446 affordable housing units throughout the province. These communities

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now include Brooks, Calgary, Camrose, Canmore, Cochrane, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, the MD of Greenview, Hythe, Leduc, Lethbridge, the MD of Opportunity, Red Deer, Rocky Mountain House, Stony Plain, Villeneuve and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

Federal and provincial contributions to affordable housing projects are enhanced by contributions from other partners including municipalities, local community housing authorities, non-profit organizations and private sector companies.

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