



PRESS RELEASE



Canadian Mortgage News - National Archive 2005

Government Boosts Support for Women and Children Fleeing

Opening of Larger, Accessible Facility Marks Kingston Interval House's 30th Anniversary

TORONTO, Ontario, June 2, 2005 — Kingston Interval House celebrated its 30th anniversary with the opening of a new, larger facility for victims of domestic abuse. The new facility was made possible through funding from the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

"Our government is committed to providing support for women and their children who are fleeing domestic abuse," said John Gerretsen, MPP for Kingston and the Islands on behalf of Sandra Pupatello, Minister of Community and Social Services. "It is essential that we provide a safe haven and support that helps women break free from domestic violence."

A \$1.9 million grant from the Ontario government funded the relocation of the existing 20-bed shelter to a larger facility that includes space for five additional beds. The increased capacity will allow Kingston Interval House to help 100 more women each year.

"The construction of this shelter demonstrates the Government of Canada's commitment to address housing and support needs for women and children at risk," said Kingston and the Islands Member of Parliament, Peter Milliken. "Federal strategies dealing with family violence and homelessness are helping those most in need at the community level, and Interval House is a prime example of that help."

CMHC committed \$25,515 under the Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP) to make the new shelter accessible for disabled persons. SEP assists with the funding to repair, rehabilitate and improve existing shelters for victims of family violence.

"After 30 years of many nights where every bed in the shelter was full, we are excited about a new, safer building that will allow us to help more women and their children," said Linda Murray, Executive Director of Kingston Interval House. "As long as family homes are torn apart by domestic violence, we must be ready to provide a place of refuge and support."

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