



PRESS RELEASE



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Ground-Breaking for Seniors Residence in Villeneuve

VILLENEUVE, Alberta, June 5, 2005 — A special ground-breaking ceremony was held today, in Villeneuve, to mark the start of construction of the West Sturgeon Seniors Residence. Lead by the West Sturgeon Aging in Place Foundation, this affordable housing project includes \$2.75 million in federal and provincial funding under the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program.

This affordable housing project will provide 55 seniors units, including an attached 12-unit Alzheimer pod. The project is scheduled to be completed in late 2006 and will benefit seniors in the communities of Alcomdale, Calahoo, Mearns, Riviere Qui Barre and Villeneuve.

"The Government of Canada is committed to investing in our communities," said the Honourable Claudette Tardif, Senator for Edmonton, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing. "Projects such as West Sturgeon Seniors Residence make it possible for seniors to remain close to their family and friends, and allow them to remain active in their communities."

"This is a great example of the community, various levels of government and stakeholder groups working 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 affordable housing options for the seniors in the West Sturgeon area."

"The Foundation is thrilled with the progress of this project. The strength of our communities has made a dream a reality," said Foundation Chair Colleen Soetaert. "Our thanks go to both the federal and provincial governments for their assistance."

The West Sturgeon Aging in Place Foundation gratefully acknowledges the support of local residents, volunteer organizations, and local businesses that have worked together to raise over \$600,000 for this project.

Affordable housing is a priority for all levels of government. Federal and provincial contributions to affordable housing projects through the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program are enhanced by contributions from other partners including municipalities, local community housing authorities, non-profit organizations and private sector companies.

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 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.

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