



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **70 Affordable Housing Units Now Available in Grande Prairie**

**GRANDE PRAIRIE, Alberta, June 6, 2005** — A special ceremony held today marked the official opening of the Margaret Edgson Manor, which will provide 70 new affordable housing units for low- to moderate-income individuals with disabilities and families in Grande Prairie. Fifteen of the 70 two-bedroom units will specifically meet the needs of local residents with disabilities.

Lead by the Grande Prairie Residential Society, the project received \$3.25 million in funding from the federal and provincial governments under the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program. Jim Edgson was on hand to help celebrate the grand opening of the building named after his sister.

"The Government of Canada is committed to investing in our communities, particularly in areas of need such as affordable housing," said the The Honourable Anne McLellan, Deputy Prime Minister, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing. "By working in partnership with the provincial and municipal governments through programs like the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program we are able to see projects like the Margaret Edgson Manor come to life for the people of Grande Prairie."

"This project is a wonderful tribute to the late Margaret Edgson, who worked tirelessly to improve housing for moderate- to low-income families and people with disabilities in Grande Prairie," said Alberta Seniors and Community Supports Minister Yvonne Fritz. "The Government of Alberta is proud to be a partner in this affordable housing project."

"The City of Grande Prairie is proud to support the Margaret Edgson Manor with gifts in kind of land, reduction in fees and other assistance," said Grande Prairie Mayor Wayne Ayling. "We believe in the goals of the Grande Prairie Residential Society to provide barrier-free and affordable housing for all people. Congratulations to everyone who contributed to this wonderful project. You have all worked so hard for this day and deserve a huge pat on the back from our community."

The Grande Prairie Residential Society gratefully acknowledges support from the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation, Alberta Seniors and Community Supports, Associated Canadian Travellers of Grande Prairie, the United Church of Grande Prairie, the Swan City Rotary Club, Jim Edgson, Jim Napier, the Wild Rose Foundation and the Community Foundation of Greater Grande Prairie for their long lasting support of this project.

Funding for the affordable housing project includes \$3.25 million in federal and provincial monies under the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program (CAAHP); a \$338,000 land donation from the City of Grande Prairie; \$200,000 from the Grande Prairie Residential Society; and \$38,000 in in-kind services from Auatera.

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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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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