



PRESS RELEASE



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The Women's Centre Receives Federal Funding for Renovations

OWEN SOUND, Ontario, June 24, 2005 — The Women's Centre (Grey & Bruce) Inc. will receive \$107,365 in federal funding to support renovations to the existing building, the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing, announced today. The funding, provided through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP), will be used to renovate and upgrade the Centre's 10 townhouses.

"The Government of Canada's contribution is part of an ongoing commitment to providing safe and affordable housing for Canadians," said Minister Fontana. "We are pleased to partner with The Women's Centre to make improvements to housing which provides a safe, healthy environment for women and children."

During the renovation, scheduled for completion in September, the kitchens will be upgraded, the rear exterior doors will be replaced with steel safety doors, and walkways, concrete patios and fencing will be added to the townhouses' shared backyard. The renovations to the backyard will provide accessibility for persons with disabilities, privacy and security for the residents. As well, a modern, safe play unit will be added to the backyard to create a playground for the resident children.

"We are extremely delighted with this opportunity to provide our residents with the quality of life and the standard of housing that we so often take for granted," said Barb West Bartley, Program Manager for Second Stage Housing, The Women's Centre. "For women in crisis, every small detail can build confidence and empower our clients as they rebuild their lives."

The Women's Centre (Grey & Bruce) Inc. provides programs and services to women and children who are living with the effects and the trauma of violence. Second Stage is a transitional housing program that has been offering safe, short-term affordable housing to women and their children in crisis for almost 20 years.

"Providing a safe and healthy place to regroup and grow makes such a difference in our clients' lives," said Heather Pollard, Chair of The Women's Centre. "This funding will provide a sanctuary for women and their families and create a healing community."

CMHC's Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP) program assists in repairing, rehabilitating and improving existing shelters for women and children, youth or men who are victims of family violence, and in acquiring or building new shelters and second-stage housing where needed.

CMHC is Canada's national housing agency with a mandate to help Canadians gain access to safe, quality and affordable housing. CMHC supports the Canadian housing industry and improves the living conditions of Canadians through its activities in mortgage loan insurance and securitization, assisted housing, research and information transfer and the promotion of Canadian housing exports.

For further information, please contact:

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