



PRESS RELEASE



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Meadow Lake Project Offers Community Multiple Benefits

REGINA, Saskatchewan, July 20, 2005 — The Meadow Lake Outreach Ministry has received \$700,000 under the Centenary Affordable Housing Program (CAHP) for a 14-unit, three-storey low-rise apartment building for single women and their children.

"The Government of Canada is committed to helping single mothers and their children," said Ralph Goodale, Minister of Finance, on behalf of Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing. "A safe, warm place to live is one of our most urgent needs. We are working with local organizations to find housing solutions for the people of Northern Saskatchewan."

"Our HomeFirst strategy is all about helping people find a place to call home so they can open the doors to their own independence," said Community Resources and Employment Minister Joanne Crofford. "These projects help people in northern communities find stability and start them on the path to taking part in the social and economic growth of our province."

Meadow Lake Outreach Ministries Inc. is a community-based non-profit corporation in Meadow Lake, incorporated in 1992. The organization works under the operational name, Door of Hope, and primarily provides support and help to lower-income and disadvantaged people in the community through a large number of social programs.

The project is approximately 17,714 square feet and will provide transitional/affordable housing with two transitional suites accommodating eight beds and 14 affordable units made up of one one-bedroom unit, 12 two-bedroom units and one three-bedroom unit. In addition to the transitional and affordable housing units, the building is proposed to house a licensed daycare centre to provide childcare and support to tenants and low-income families in the neighbouring area.

The breakdown of the CAHP contribution has Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation providing \$350,000 in funding, the provincial government providing \$280,000 in funding and the Town of Meadow Lake with an in-kind land contribution of \$70,000. Human Resources Skills and Development Canada will provide \$750,000 announced in May and a mortgage of \$127,705 will provide the balance of funding.

Funded under the Canada-Saskatchewan Affordable Housing Agreement, CAHP provides \$33 million in federal funding for affordable housing, matched by Saskatchewan, municipalities and other parties. With these matching contributions, a total of \$66 million will be allocated by 2007/08 for affordable housing.

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Backgrounder

2005 Northern Centenary Affordable Housing Program Delivery

- In June 2002, the federal and provincial governments signed the Canada-Saskatchewan Affordable Housing Program Agreement that will result in \$45.86 million to develop affordable housing in Saskatchewan over a five-year period. Of this, \$6 million was allocated to the north.
- In the 2003 – 2004 budget, the Government of Canada committed an additional \$320 million over five years to enhance and extend the national Affordable Housing Initiative to 2007 – 2008.
- In 2002, there were five projects for a total of 17 units delivered under CAHP through the Remote Housing Program, which is one of the vehicles used to deliver CAHP homeowner units in the north.
- In 2003, five projects for a total of 60 units were approved. These projects included The Dene Empowerment Centre in La Loche (7 units), which was completed January 2004, the NORTEP student residences (48 units) and three projects through the Remote Housing Program (5 units).
- In 2004, seven projects totaling 26 units were approved and are completed or currently under construction. These projects included two rental construction projects through the Rental Market Assistance Program (16 units) and five projects through the Remote Housing Program (10 units).
- In January 2005, Phase II of the Canada-Saskatchewan Affordable Housing Agreement was signed. This represents an additional \$20 million to create more affordable housing in the province. The total investment by both the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan is \$66 million.
- In addition, in February 2005, funding was provided for phase II of the La Loche project for the construction of 20 affordable housing rental units.