



PRESS RELEASE



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Assisted Living Development to Complete Campus of Care

ABBOTSFORD, British Columbia, July 26, 2005 — Seniors will benefit from more housing options with the new Tabor Home Society's 104 unit-assisted living development announced at today's official groundbreaking ceremony.

The new development completes a campus of care, ensuring a full range of housing options for seniors in Abbotsford, including independent and assisted living apartments as well as a residential care facility. Of the new 104 units, 82 will be fully funded under the Independent Living BC (ILBC) program, an innovative housing and health program of the federal government, through CMHC and the provincial government through BC Housing and Fraser Health.

"The new housing units inaugurated today will provide seniors with a quality environment that will allow them to stay in their community, near their families and friends," said the Honourable Hedy Fry, P.C., M.P. for Vancouver Centre and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing. "Housing is a priority for the Government of Canada, and we are pleased to work in cooperation with the Government of British Columbia, the municipality, and community sector representatives to provide more people with better housing in their community."

"The province is continuing to meet its commitment to increase housing options for seniors," said Michael de Jong, MLA Abbotsford - Mt. Lehman. "The Tabor Home Society development will provide 82 units of assisted living — it's a wonderful addition to an already established seniors' community here at Tabor."

Through ILBC, more than 1,000 new assisted living units will be created in the Fraser Health region, as part of a provincial commitment to develop 3,500 affordable assisted living apartments across B.C. The Fraser Health Authority funds personal care services as part of its commitment as well as a portion of the hospitality services provided to tenants. BC Housing provides funding to ensure housing costs remain affordable.

"A campus of care provides a range of options on the same site for seniors with changing care needs," said Irene Sheppard, Fraser Health's director for community services in Abbotsford-Mission. "We're increasingly providing our growing communities with a broader, more appropriate continuum of care."

The Tabor Home Society has a long-standing reputation for quality seniors' care in the Abbotsford area. Situated in central Abbotsford, they currently support an independent living seniors' complex and a residential care facility on the same site as the new assisted living development.

"This assisted living development fulfils a vision that Tabor Home Society has had for some time," said Jack Pauls of the Tabor Home Society. "The partnerships and the good working relationships that our Society, our Board, and our Management have with the various levels of government have made this project a reality."

The Province is committed to providing 3,500 affordable assisted living apartments across the province. To date over 3,080 ILBC units have been allocated, or 87 per cent of the program, in communities across B.C.

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The Government of Canada, through CMHC, will contribute \$130 million by 2008 towards affordable housing in this province. The provincial government, through BC Housing, will provide a minimum of \$34 million annually to subsidize the cost of units built under this agreement, as part of a larger strategy to provide a range of housing options for British Columbians in greatest need. Fraser Health's funding for the assisted living units will amount to approximately \$1.1 million annually.

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BACKGROUNDER

TABOR HOME SOCIETY

The Tabor Home Society is a non-profit Christian health care facility. With the new assisted living development, the Society will manage a full continuum of seniors' housing and care options: independent living apartments, assisted living units, and residential care beds.

Members from 10 Mennonite Brethren Churches in British Columbia sponsor the Society and elect members to sit on the Society's Board.

History

The Tabor Home Society was formed in 1959.

The first Tabor facility was built in 1960. It provided beds for 39 people and still exists as Tabor Home. Additions to the original building were made in 1963 and 1972. It now provides 121 residential care beds for seniors in Abbotsford, all of which are subsidized by Fraser Health.

A new independent living apartment building was built in 1987. Called Tabor Manor, the development provides 38 homes to independent seniors.

The new 104-unit assisted living development is expected to open in the summer of 2006, with 82 units funded under ILBC.