



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **New Assisted Living for Powell River Seniors**

**POWELL RIVER, British Columbia, July 29, 2005** — Construction of Kiwanis Garden Manor, a new \$8 million housing development, began today with an official groundbreaking ceremony. The project, funded in part under the Canada-British Columbia Affordable Housing Agreement, will provide 40 assisted-living units for seniors in Powell River.

"This investment will provide seniors the opportunity to live in a quality environment and continue to contribute to their communities," said the Honourable David L. Emerson, Minister of Industry, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing. "This funding partnership enables seniors to continue to live in their community, near their families and friends, and ensures that they enjoy a high quality of life."

Kiwanis Garden Manor is one of many new assisted living homes developed under the Independent Living B.C. (ILBC) program, providing a middle option for seniors who can no longer live independently, but who do not want or need 24-hour residential care. These new 40 assisted-living homes in Powell River will provide affordable alternatives for low-to moderate-income seniors.

"Assisted living is in demand by seniors who want to maintain their independence but need some support with daily activities," said West Vancouver — Garibaldi MLA Joan McIntyre. "Through partnerships like Kiwanis Garden Manor, we are offering seniors more choice to remain in their own communities as their care needs increase."

"This is a splendid project by the Kiwanis; a great forward addition to Powell River — the Pearl on the Sunshine Coast. We thank them all for the enormous effort they put forth for our community," said Corporation of the District of Powell River Mayor Stewart Alsgard.

Vancouver Coastal Health will provide ongoing funding for the personal care services and part of the hospitality services to ensure that tenants have access to the healthcare services they need to remain independent. In addition to their own private units, assisted living residents will receive hospitality and personal care services, such as meals, housekeeping and laundry services, recreational opportunities, assistance with medications, and other care needs, as well as a 24-hour response system.

"The goal of assisted living is to promote greater independence, prevent isolation, and enhance socialization for a safe and more enjoyable lifestyle," said Brenda Langevin, Director of Acute Home and Community Care for Powell River and the Sunshine Coast at Vancouver Coastal Health. "Giving seniors the choice to stay in their home communities is essential to maintaining their health."

Kiwanis Garden Manor will be owned and operated by the Powell River Kiwanis Housing Society. The Kiwanis Club, through the Powell River Village Society already manages Kiwanis Village, a 42-unit subsidized independent seniors' housing development that will be linked with the new assisted living building. Under the local Kiwanis Club, the housing society has strong links with the community and is actively involved in ongoing fundraising to secure more

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services for the new residents of the assisted-living development.

"We see Kiwanis Garden Manor as a natural extension of the work that we do providing affordable housing to seniors in our own community," said Kiwanis Housing Society President Bob Irving. "Assisted living will be the answer for many of our Powell River seniors and we are pleased to be part of the solution."

The Province of British Columbia, through B.C. Housing and the ILBC program, is committed to providing 3,500 affordable assisted living apartments across the province. To date over 3,000 ILBC units, or 87 per cent, have been allocated in communities across the province.

The Government of Canada, through CMHC, will contribute \$130 million by 2008 towards affordable housing in this province. The provincial government, through B.C. Housing, will provide a minimum of \$34 million annually to subsidize the cost of units built under the Canada-British Columbia Affordable Housing Agreement, as part of a larger strategy to provide a range of housing options for British Columbians in greatest need.

This news release is available online at [www.bchousing.org](http://www.bchousing.org).

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### **Background**

#### **Powell River Kiwanis Housing Society**

The Kiwanis Club of Powell River was organized in 1960 to serve the Powell River community. At that time, the Powell River Community was largely young families. However, as time progressed, the Kiwanis Club noticed that there was a need for seniors' housing and in 1975 incorporated the Kiwanis Village Society, which opened the Kiwanis Village in 1978 with 42-units of independent seniors' housing.

The Kiwanis Club incorporated another society to develop the next necessary service for Powell River — their 40 units of assisted living.

### **Development Facts**

The Kiwanis Garden Manor is a three-storey development with all 40 one-bedroom suites. There will be an elevated covered walkway from the second story of the neighbouring 42-unit subsidized independent seniors' building, operated by the Kiwanis Village Society. This walkway provides a direct link to the dining pavilion at the ground level of the new building, allowing seniors in the existing building to benefit from the kitchen.

The name Kiwanis Garden Manor, came from the beautiful gardens planned as part of the landscaping.

Tenants will pay 70 per cent of their after-tax income for their units and receive hospitality and personal care services, such as meals, housekeeping and laundry, recreational programs, assistance with medications, and other care needs, and

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a 24-hour response system.

Construction is expected to be completed by August 2006.

### **Partners and Funding**

Capital cost of this project is \$8 million.

- The federal government, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, is providing a \$2 million capital grant.
- The provincial government, through B.C. Housing, will provide housing subsidy of \$5.4 million over 35 years.
- Vancouver Coastal Health will provide funding for part of the hospitality and personal care services to ILBC tenants.
- The Corporation of the District of Powell River provided reductions on various development costs. The value of the contribution is approximately \$210,000.
- The Powell River Kiwanis Housing Society provided \$58,000 towards the land and \$240,000 in cash.
- Powell River Regional Hospital District provided \$59,600 for the remainder of the land.
- The Society also recently received a \$20,000 commitment from the Powell River Health-Care Auxiliary to cover the cost of additional specialized services.