



PRESS RELEASE



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34 New Affordable Housing Units Open in Hamilton

HAMILTON, Ontario, August 2, 2005 — The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the City of Hamilton today celebrated the official opening of 557 Queenston Road, a project that creates 34 units of affordable housing in Hamilton under the Canada/Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

The Honourable Tony Valeri, Member of Parliament for Hamilton East-Stoney Creek, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing; Jennifer Mossop MPP for Stoney Creek, on behalf of the Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; and Hamilton Mayor Larry Di Ianni attended the ceremony.

"Thanks to the co-operative efforts between the various levels of Government and the Hamilton Housing Corporation, this greatly needed project has become a reality," said MP Valeri. "Shelter is one of the foundations upon which healthy communities and individual dignity are built, and the Government of Canada is committed to helping local organizations develop housing and homelessness solutions that meet the needs of their community."

"The McGuinty government is committed to working in partnership to address the shortage of affordable housing for lower-income residents in Ontario," said Mossop. "The Queenston Road project represents a significant achievement: the creation of 34 units of much-needed new and affordable housing for seniors and single people in Hamilton."

The \$3.3 million project, including \$986,000 from the Canada/Ontario Affordable Housing Program, provides 34 apartments at 557 Queenston Road in the city of Hamilton. The project is sponsored by the Hamilton Housing Corporation and the units will be occupied by seniors and single persons with lower incomes.

"City Council is committed to meeting the needs of all residents of our city and affordable housing projects such as 557 Queenston Road help to address a very serious need in this community," said Mayor Larry Di Ianni. "Living in a home that provides you with the essential protection from the elements should not be a concern for anyone in Hamilton. Affordability should not be an issue. Working together with our federal and provincial partners, we can ensure that all residents have access to quality affordable housing."

"557 Queenston Road is a perfect example of what can be done when all levels of government come together to support those most in need of affordable housing in Hamilton," said Robert Kronas, Vice-President of Hamilton Housing Corporation/City Housing Hamilton. "Hamilton Housing Corporation/City Housing Hamilton will continue to work with the federal and provincial governments to develop further affordable housing initiatives, in the coming years."

The federal and provincial funding is complemented by more than \$1.7 million in municipal financial incentives.

In Hamilton, the Government of Canada, through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), contributed \$1.5 million under the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program Agreement.

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The new federal-provincial agreement, signed on April 29, 2005, comprises a commitment of \$301 million from each of the two levels of government. With this commitment, the federal, provincial and municipal governments will have invested \$734 million through the Canada/Ontario Affordable Housing Program. In total, the program will help 20,000 Ontario households by 2010.

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