



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **New Affordable Housing Coming to Morden**

**MORDEN, Manitoba, August 4, 2005** — Low-to moderate-income families and people with disabilities in the Morden area will soon have access to safe and affordable apartment units when a new rental project with 30 units is completed. The development is being supported with \$600,000 in funding from the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Program.

The announcement was made today by the Honourable Reg Alcock, President of Treasury Board, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing, and the Honourable Christine Melnick, Minister of Manitoba Family Services and Housing and Minister responsible for the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation. The total project cost, when combined with private contributions, is estimated at \$2.14 million.

"Affordable and accessible housing is about more than bricks and mortar, it's about the people who need it and use it," said Minister Alcock. "This is truly a community project and demonstrates how all levels of government can work together and help people meet their housing needs."

"This support, through the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative, will boost the amount of quality, reasonably-priced rental housing in Morden," said Minister Melnick. "Thanks to the project owner, low-to moderate-income families and people with disabilities will be able to move into these new apartments that are also designed to better meet the needs of those with disabilities. "

The rents for the 30 new units are considered affordable as they will be at the median market rent for rural Manitoba, approximately \$575 per month and include utilities. Any future rent increases will be limited to the annual rent guideline.

The project was selected as the result of an expression of interest call and is supported by the Morden Community Development Corporation.

"We are thrilled to work collaboratively with the governments of Canada and Manitoba to help create more safe and affordable housing options for low- and moderate-income people," said John Wiens, on behalf of the developer.

The governments of Canada and Manitoba will each contribute \$36.9 million to the Affordable Housing Initiative, demonstrating their commitment to increasing the supply of affordable housing in Manitoba. It is anticipated that contributions from municipalities, the private and voluntary sectors, co-operatives and charities will significantly increase the size of this initiative in Manitoba.

#### **For further information, please contact:**

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### **Backgrounder**

#### **Morden Affordable Housing Project**

##### **Morden:**

- Affordable Housing Assistance New Rental Supply Program (AHI-NRS) funding of \$600,000, is being provided to construct a 30 unit "visitable" housing project at Parkhill Street and P.R. 432 in Morden.
- The building will provide 30 units of affordable housing for low-to moderate-income individuals.
- The total estimated project cost is \$2,146,501.
- The proponents, Curry & Zimmerman Ltd. agree to lease at average rents of \$575 per month for the two-bed units. The rent including utility costs does not exceed the Median Market Rents of \$575 for a two-bed unit in Morden.
- The project creates new affordable rental housing for families and people with disabilities currently employed or seeking employment in the Morden area.

#### **Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Agreement**

The Governments of Canada and Manitoba signed the Affordable Housing Initiative on September 20, 2002 — the first phase provided federal funding of \$25.39 million with matching contributions of \$25.39 million from the Province of Manitoba and our housing partners. Phase II of the Affordable Housing Initiative was signed on April 25, 2005 and provides for \$11.54 million in federal funds with matching contributions of \$11.54 million from the Province of Manitoba and our housing partners. This agreement provides funding for a new rental housing supply program, a rehabilitation/conversion program, a new homebuyer down-payment program, and a home ownership supply program.