



PRESS RELEASE



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32 Affordable Housing Units to be Built in Arborg

ARBORG, Manitoba, August 11, 2005 — A new apartment complex, with 32 assisted living units for low-to-moderate income seniors in Arborg, will receive \$704,000 in funding from the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI).

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 made the announcement today.

"Healthy communities are vital to our personal and national well-being," said Minister Alcock. "We are providing communities, such as Arborg, with a range of tools to create and preserve affordable housing. Projects such as these will allow seniors to stay close to family and friends in their community."

"This construction, supported through the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative, will create much-needed new, assisted living units in Arborg," said Melnick. "The project helps ensure a supply of quality, reasonably-priced housing for low-to-moderate income seniors," said Minister Melnick.

"There has been strong community support for this important project and we are excited about the positive impact it will have on Arborg," said Steve Lupky of the Arborg Seniors Housing Corporation. "We are very pleased to partner with the governments of Canada and Manitoba to help create more safe and affordable housing options for low-to-moderate income seniors."

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$2.85 million. It is expected to be completed by July 2006. The complex will include 24, one-bedroom and eight, two-bedroom apartments. The rents for the 32 new units are considered affordable as they will be at the median market rent for rural Manitoba and include utilities.

An assisted living component includes a group meal program, 24-hour staff assistance, light housekeeping services and an activity program. The complex will also provide a meal program at \$360 per month.

The building will incorporate energy efficient design such as geothermal heating and cooling, solar walls and energy efficiency lighting, all of which will reduce operating costs, extend the life of the facility and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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.

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Backgrounder

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.

Other Government of Canada Housing Support in Manitoba:

The Government of Canada annually supports housing with approximately \$126.5 million in grants, contributions and subsidies primarily in support of some 43,000 lower-income families, seniors, persons with disabilities, Aboriginal people and victims of domestic violence. This includes funds for renovations under the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP), Home Adaptations for Seniors' Independence (HASI), Emergency Repair Program (ERP) and the Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP).

Other Government of Manitoba Housing Support Programs:

The Government of Manitoba offers programs to help low-to moderate-income households maintain, buy or rent safe, adequate and affordable housing. The province provides annual grants and subsidies through the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation; funding for non-profit and co-operative housing organizations to help develop project proposals for affordable housing for seniors, persons with disabilities, and persons with low incomes; it supports the provision of private sector financing for affordable housing projects developed and delivered by non-profit organizations; and also provides grants and loans for home repairs.

The Affordable Housing Initiative complements existing renovation and repair programs, including the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP). Manitoba cost-shares RRAP, the Home Adaptations for Seniors' Independence Program, the Emergency Repair Program and the Shelter Enhancement Program with the federal government. The Manitoba government also funds and delivers the Homeowner Emergency Loan Program.