



PRESS RELEASE



Canadian Mortgage News - National Archive 2005

Eight New Affordable Housing Units in Saint-Donat

SAINT-DONAT, Québec, August 16, 2005 — Lower-income families now have more affordable housing options with the construction of Habitations Bellevue comprising of eight units located at 463 and 475 Bellevue Street, in Saint-Donat.

This announcement was made today by the Honourable Lucienne Robillard, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing, and by Pierre Descoteaux, MNA for Groulx, on behalf of Nathalie Normandeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Regions. In addition to Mr. Descoteaux, Pierre Poudrier, Mayor of the municipality of Saint-Donat, and Lucien Blaquière, Chair of the Board of Directors of Habitations Bellevue, were present at the opening ceremony.

The construction of Habitations Bellevue, which required investments of nearly \$850,000, was completed thanks to the participation of public, private, and community partners. The financial contributions for the development of the project come to a total of \$632,760, of which \$474,570 was provided under the affordable housing agreement signed between Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ).

CMHC provided \$237,285 in financial assistance for this housing project, while the SHQ contributed \$246,575. The municipality of Saint-Donat provided an amount of \$148,900. The other costs are being assumed by l'Office municipal d'habitation de Saint-Donat, mostly through a mortgage loan secured by the SHQ.

"The Government of Canada is pleased to work with the province, the municipality, and community sector representatives to meet the housing needs of the citizens of Saint-Donat," said Minister Robillard. "Affordable housing units are a source of individual and collective pride. They enhance quality of life, stimulate commercial investment and contribute to the sustainable development of communities."

"The Government of Quebec applauds the development of these eight new housing units that will allow families to benefit from dwellings that meet their needs. This construction is an excellent example of a successful partnership between governments, the municipality, and the community sector," said Mr. Descoteaux.

The development of this project is part of the Government of Quebec's initiative to produce 18,600 social, community, and private housing units for lower-income households. This initiative is notably supported by federal funds made available under affordable housing agreements.

The Governments of Canada and Quebec signed an agreement, in August 2004, concerning additional funding for the second phase of the Affordable Housing Program, as Quebec became the first province to sign such an agreement. This makes for a total contribution of \$150 million to increase the availability of affordable housing in Quebec. The federal contribution is \$75 million, with an equivalent amount being provided by the Government of Quebec and the municipalities participating in the program.

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