



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **Inauguration — 16 New Social and Community Housing Units in Québec City**

**QUÉBEC CITY, Québec, August 29, 2005** — People with mental illness now have more options thanks to the conversion of a building in the borough of Limoilou, in Québec City, called Résidence Saint-Pascal, the project consists of 13 rooms and three bachelor apartments.

This announcement was made today by the Honourable Claude Drouin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister with special emphasis on Rural Communities and MP for Beauce, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing, and by Michel Després, Minister of Transport and MNA for Jean-Lesage, on behalf of Nathalie Normandeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Regions. Also attending today's ceremony were Claude Drouin, Michel Després, Claude Larose, Municipal Councillor responsible for housing on the Québec City Executive Committee, and Louise Arsenault, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Fondation Robert-Giffard.

The conversion of the building required investments of over \$1.8 million, and was completed thanks to the participation of public, private, and community partners. The financial contributions for the development of this project, totalling \$1,131,206, are being made under the Affordable Housing Agreement, in a proportion of 50 per cent by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and 50 per cent by the Société d'habitation du Québec and the community, which is providing \$260,882, including \$11,013 from Québec City, in the form of a capitalized tax rebate, and more than \$240,000 from the Fondation Robert-Giffard. The other costs are being assumed by the organization through a mortgage loan secured by the Société d'habitation du Québec.

"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 Québec City," said Claude Drouin. "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."

"I am delighted with the creation of this residence that will provide support to people with special housing problems in their progression toward greater independence and well-being. This project is an excellent example of a successful partnership between the private sector, the community and the government," said Michel Després.

"We are very pleased that these 16 housing units were developed thanks to the cooperation of the three levels of government, the community sector and the Fondation. More people in need will be able to find a safe place to live where they will be able to pursue their personal growth and their path toward independence," indicated Claude Larose.

All the tenants of the Résidence Saint-Pascal can benefit from the Rent Supplement program, which provides financial assistance to low- to moderate-income individuals who would otherwise have to spend more than 25 per cent of their income on housing.

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 low- to moderate-income households. This initiative is notably supported by federal funds

made available under affordable housing agreements.

An Affordable Housing Agreement was signed between CMHC and the Société d'habitation du Québec in 2001. It provides for a total contribution of \$323.3 million to increase the supply of affordable housing in Quebec, with \$161.65 million from the federal government, \$104 million from the Quebec government, and \$57 million from the municipalities participating in the program.

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