



## PRESS RELEASE



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### Opening of 108 New Affordable Housing Units in Lévis

**LÉVIS, Québec, August 31, 2005** — Quebec Premier Jean Charest proceeded today with the opening of two residential projects comprising a total of 108 affordable housing units, in Lévis.

The Honourable Claude Drouin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister with special emphasis on Rural Communities and MP for Beauce; Carole Théberge, Minister of Families, Seniors and the Status of Women, Minister responsible for the Chaudière-Appalaches region and MNA for Lévis; Jean Garon, Mayor of Lévis; and Denis Morin and Daniel Dussault, respectively, Chair of the Board of Directors and Director General of the Lévis Municipal Housing Bureau, were also present at the opening ceremony.

"The construction of these projects demonstrates our commitment to housing. Our government had stated our intention to produce 13,000 housing units during our mandate. We can be proud, as there are now 18,600 units being developed. Supporting the development of community housing is a gesture of solidarity and social justice that must remain a priority," said Premier Charest.

Located on De l'Église and Saint-Jacques Streets, in the borough of Chutes-Chaudière-Est, these housing units required investments of nearly \$12 million. Public, private and community partners contributed a total amount of over \$8.9 million for these projects. The Government of Quebec granted a sum of \$3,912,202, including \$3,701,602 from the Société d'habitation du Québec and \$210,600 from the Agence de l'efficacité énergétique under the Novoclimat program. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, for its part, contributed a sum of \$3,266,000, while the municipality of Lévis provided an amount of \$1,741,759. The other costs are being assumed by the Lévis Municipal Housing Bureau, notably through a mortgage loan secured by the Société d'habitation du Québec.

"Our investment in this project shows how committed the Government of Canada is to providing affordable housing to Canadians most in need," said Mr. Drouin. "Housing is a priority for the Government of Canada, and we are pleased to work in cooperation with the Government of Quebec, the municipality and community sector representatives to provide more people with better housing in their community."

"The Government of Quebec applauds the development of these 108 new housing units that will allow families to benefit from dwellings that meet their needs," noted Minister Théberge. "Such a partnership between governments, the municipality and the community is contributing to the well-being of children who, in my eyes, all deserve a healthy environment conducive to their growth."

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

It should be recalled, in fact, that 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

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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.

### **Sources:**

Hélène Bégin  
Communications Advisor  
Société d'habitation du Québec  
(418) 644-5762

Paul Sauvé  
Communications and Marketing  
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation  
(514) 283-5110

### **Information:**

Virginie Faucher  
Acting Press Assistant  
Premier's Office  
(418) 643-5321