



**PRESS RELEASE**



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## **Opening of 15 New Social and Community Housing Units in Magog**

**MAGOG, Québec, September 23, 2005** — Persons with physical disabilities now have more options thanks to the construction of 15 adapted housing units in the Résidences Gravel et Viens, located at 96 Brassard Street, in Magog.

This announcement was made today by the Honourable Denis Paradis, MP for Brome-Missisquoi, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing, by Pierre Reid, Minister of Government Services and MNA for Orford, on behalf of Nathalie Normandeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Regions, and by Marc Poulin, Mayor of Magog and President of the Local Development Centre (LDC) of the Memphrémagog Regional County Municipality (RCM). In addition to Denis Paradis, Pierre Reid and Marc Poulin, Melvyn Bryant, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Corporation Memphrémagog Han-Logement, was present at the opening ceremony, as were Dr. Claude Gravel and Mr. Bertrand Viens, in honour of whom the housing project was named.

The construction of the Résidences Gravel et Viens, which required investments of more than \$1.5 million, was completed thanks to the participation of public, private and community partners. The financial contributions for the development of this project, totalling \$1,036,205, were made under the affordable housing agreement.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation contributed a sum of \$589,737. The Government of Québec, for its part, through the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ), granted an amount of \$212,306. The community provided a sum of \$234,162, including \$85,000 from the LDC of the Memphrémagog RCM and \$50,000 from the municipality of Magog. The other costs are being assumed by the organization, in particular through a mortgage loan secured by the SHQ.

All the tenants of the Résidences Gravel et Viens can benefit from the Rent Supplement program, which provides financial assistance to low-income individuals who would otherwise have to spend more than 25 per cent of their income on housing. The rent supplements provided will represent, over a five-year period, a total of \$202,500 in financial assistance, including \$182,250 from the SHQ and \$20,250 from the municipality of Magog.

"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 Magog," said Denis Paradis. "Thanks to this funding partnership, persons with permanent disabilities will be able to continue living close to their families and friends."

"The financial support of the Government of Quebec for this project confirms our will to develop sustainable resources to meet the special housing needs of certain individuals. Such a commitment on the part of governments, the community and the private sector is a brilliant example of a successful partnership," said Pierre Reid.

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- and moderate-income households. This initiative is notably supported by federal funds made available under affordable housing agreements.

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It should be recalled that an Affordable Housing Agreement was signed between Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Société d'habitation du Québec in 2001. It provides for a total contribution of \$323.3M to increase the supply of affordable housing in Quebec, with \$161.65M from the federal government, \$104M from the Quebec government and \$57M from the municipalities participating in the program.

### **Sources:**

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