



PRESS RELEASE



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Affordable Housing Project Opens in London

LONDON, Ontario, September 24, 2005 — The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the City of London held a ceremony today to mark the official opening of the London Affordable Housing Foundation's townhouses located at 1374 Savannah Drive, a project that creates 14 units of affordable housing in London under the Canada–Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

The Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing and MP for London North Centre, MPP Deb Matthews, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services, on behalf of John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Councillor Susan Eagle, on behalf of London Mayor Anne Marie DeCicco, attended the ceremony.

"When it comes to building strong communities and the housing within them, it takes the efforts of many to achieve success," said Minister Fontana. "Today's ceremony to officially open 14 new townhomes is about celebrating the partnership between all three levels of government along with the London Affordable Housing Foundation, all with a vision of making affordable housing a reality for the residents of the London."

"Access to affordable and safe housing is crucial for lower-income families," said MPP Matthews. "This project is a tangible result of the McGuinty government's commitment to work with its federal, municipal and community partners on improving the supply of affordable housing in London, and across Ontario."

The \$1.9 million project, including \$453,000 from the Canada–Ontario Affordable Housing Program, will provide 14 new apartments at 1374 Savannah Drive in the City of London. The project is sponsored by the London Affordable Housing Foundation, and the units will be occupied by families with lower incomes.

"This is an extremely important day for all Londoners, as we strive to combat homelessness in our community," said Mayor Anne Marie DeCicco. "Although the critical need for affordable housing is a national issue, the City of London committed long ago to being part of the solution. So, it's great to finally launch this pivotal housing complex, which will have a very positive impact on the lives of many in our city."

"Today's event is one of achievement; it brings hope and possibility to concerned citizens and makes a real difference to many lives throughout our community," said Sister Joan Atkinson, Chair of the London Affordable Housing Foundation. "Our ongoing work with all levels of government has made it possible to provide new and affordable housing to citizens in need. This is a small part of the solution to affordable housing, and we look forward to contributing to future solutions through collaborative efforts with our citizens and government partners."

Today's federal and provincial allocation will be complemented by more than \$432,000 in municipal financial incentives.

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In London, the Government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), has allocated \$5.5 million under the Canada–Ontario Affordable Housing Program Agreement.

The new federal-provincial agreement, signed on April 29, 2005, comprises a commitment of \$301 million from each of the two levels of government. With this commitment, the federal, provincial and municipal governments will have invested at least \$734 million over the life of the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program. In total, the program will help 20,000 Ontario households by 2010.

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