



PRESS RELEASE



Canadian Mortgage News - National Archive 2005

Opening — 135 New Affordable Housing Units in Québec City

QUÉBEC CITY, Québec, October 7, 2005 — Lower-income families and individuals in Québec City now have more affordable housing options thanks to the construction of four housing projects comprising a total of 135 units: Habitations Jean-Juneau, Montagne des Roches, Jolibourg III and Vautelet.

This announcement was made today by Senator Dennis Dawson, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing, by Sam Hamad, MNA for Louis-Hébert, on behalf of Nathalie Normandeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Regions, and by Claude Larose, Municipal Councillor responsible for housing on the Québec City Executive Committee. In addition to Senator Dawson, Sam Hamad and Claude Larose, France Hamel, MNA for La Peltrie, and Éric R. Mercier, MNA for Charlesbourg, as well as Gary Lavoie, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Québec City Municipal Housing Bureau, were present at the opening ceremony.

The construction of the four housing projects, which required investments of \$12,966,835, was completed thanks to the participation of public, private and community partners. The financial contributions for the development of these projects, totalling \$9,730,125, were provided under the affordable housing agreement signed between Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ).

CMHC provided \$4,865,063 in financial assistance for these housing projects, while the SHQ contributed a sum of \$2,920,037. The community, for its part, provided an amount of \$1,945,025, including \$1,655,456 from Québec City. The other costs are being assumed by the Québec City Municipal Housing Bureau, in particular through a mortgage loan secured by the SHQ.

"An adequate home is one of the factors conducive to greater independence and a better quality of life," pointed out Senator Dawson. "Thanks to the flexibility of the Affordable Housing Agreement, the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec were able to work together with the municipality and members of the community to develop this project and provide quality homes offering a healthy and affordable environment to the citizens of Québec City."

"My government is delighted with the development of these 135 new housing units that will allow families and individuals to benefit from dwellings that meet their needs. What is more, this construction is an excellent example of a successful partnership between governments, the municipality and the community sector," said Sam Hamad.

"For Québec City, the equitable distribution of social and community housing units across the entire territory is essential. It is important for individuals who have difficulty in finding housing to be able to remain in their living environment," specified Claude Larose. "We must also salute the tenacity of the people who initiated these projects and had the perseverance to complete them. Social housing is not just a question of money; it also involves mobilizing groups."

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

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funds made available under affordable housing agreements.

It should be recalled that an Affordable Housing Agreement was signed between CMHC and the SHQ 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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