



PRESS RELEASE



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Opening — 18 New Social and Community Housing Units in Saint-Eustache

SAINT-EUSTACHE, Québec, October 14, 2005 — Modest and low-income families in Saint-Eustache now have more affordable housing options thanks to the construction of a new project with 18 units, at 111 Pierre-Laporte Street.

This announcement was made today by the Honourable Liza Frulla, Minister of Canadian Heritage, Minister responsible for the Status of Women and MP for Jeanne-Le Ber, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing, and by Pierre Marsan, MNA for Robert-Baldwin, on behalf of Nathalie Normandeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Regions. In addition to Pierre Marsan, Claude Carignan, Mayor of Saint-Eustache, and Nicole Carignan-Lefebvre, Chair of the Saint-Eustache Municipal Housing Bureau, were also present at this opening.

The construction of this new housing project, which required investments of over \$1.6 million, was completed thanks to the participation of public, private and community partners. The financial contributions for the development of this project, totalling \$1,107,651, were 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 (SHQ) and the municipality of Saint-Eustache, which provided \$229,500. The other costs are being assumed by the Saint-Eustache Municipal Housing Bureau, in particular through a mortgage loan secured by the SHQ.

Half of the residents of the housing project 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.

"Housing is about people's lives. Having an address allows those most in need to maintain their dignity and actively participate in the life of our community. The Government of Canada is proud to work together with the Government of Quebec, the municipality of Saint-Eustache and other community and private sector partners on the development of this project that will provide safe and affordable housing for those who need it the most," said Minister Frulla.

"I can only be pleased with the development of such housing projects. They provide stability and safety, which may be taken for granted by a large part of the Quebec population but which, for many vulnerable people, represent real wealth. The Government of Quebec is committed to working with our partners — the Government of Canada, the community and the private sector — to develop resources that take into account the needs of every individual, without exception," said Pierre Marsan.

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 an Affordable Housing Agreement.

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

Canadian Mortgage News - Opening — 18 New Social and Community Housing Units in Saint-Eustache municipalities participating in the program.

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Left to right: Charles Chenard, General Manager, Quebec Business Centre - Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation; the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing; the Honourable Liza Frulla, Minister of Canadian Heritage, Minister responsible for the Status of Women and Member of Parliament for Jeanne-Le Ber; and Yves Poirier, Vice-President — Programs, Société d'habitation du Québec.