



PRESS RELEASE



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119 Affordable Housing Units for Seniors in the Montréal–Nord Borough of Montréal

MONTRÉAL, Québec, October 18, 2005 — Moderate-income seniors now have access to 119 new affordable housing units thanks to the construction of Habitations Pelletier, a 235-unit housing project offering cafeteria, laundry and housekeeping services, in the Montréal–Nord borough of Montréal.

This announcement was made today by the Honourable Denis Coderre, MP for Bourassa, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing, by Nathalie Normandeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Regions, and by Cosmo Maciocia, City of Montréal Executive Committee member responsible for housing, social development and income security. In addition to Denis Coderre and Cosmo Maciocia, Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte, Archbishop of Montréal, and Guy Gionet, President and CEO of SOLIM, were present at the opening ceremony.

The Habitations Pelletier project, for which the construction cost was close to \$13.4 million, was completed thanks in part to the participation of public sector partners. The government financial contributions, totalling \$1,008,500, to support the completion of 119 affordable housing units out of the 235 units, were made under the private component of the Affordable Housing Québec program. This program was developed further to the affordable housing agreement signed between Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ). The contributions are being assumed in a proportion of 50 per cent by CMHC, 35 per cent by the SHQ and 15 per cent by the City of Montréal.

As well, this housing project received an additional \$403,400 in assistance under the Renovation Québec program, jointly funded by the SHQ and the City of Montréal.

"The new units being opened today will offer seniors a quality environment that will allow them to remain in their community, close to their family and friends," said Denis Coderre. "Housing is a priority for the Government of Canada, and we are very pleased to work in partnership with the Government of Quebec, the City of Montréal and community sector representatives to provide more citizens with access to quality homes in their community."

"I am delighted with the construction of Habitations Pelletier that will enable seniors to benefit from housing that meets their needs, while staying in their community. In addition, this project is a good example of a public-private partnership aimed at enhancing the quality of life of seniors who could otherwise not afford housing of this quality," said Vincent Auclair.

"The private component of the Affordable Housing Québec program has allowed for the addition of 1,417 affordable housing units in Montréal. With the support of government partners, the City of Montréal has supported the production of 6,748 privately initiated dwellings, either rental units or new properties, 48 per cent of which are affordable housing units," said Cosmo Maciocia. He specified that three-quarters of these dwellings will be completed by the end of the year.

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The private component of the Affordable Housing Québec program encourages private developers to produce housing units with affordable rents for moderate-income households. Municipalities play a lead role in the development of their own affordable housing programs, based on criteria established by the Société d'habitation du Québec.

It should be recalled that the agreement signed between CMHC and the SHQ 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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