



PRESS RELEASE



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Affordable Housing Project in Ottawa Begins Construction

OTTAWA, Ontario, October 28, 2005 – The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the City of Ottawa held a time capsule ceremony today to mark the start of construction on a project that will create 83 units of affordable housing in Ottawa under the Canada–Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

The announcement was made today by the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing, the Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Councillor Peggy Feltmate, Ward 4 — Kanata, on behalf of Ottawa Mayor Bob Chiarelli.

"Affordable housing is a priority for the Government of Canada," said Minister Fontana. "We are pleased to be working with our provincial and municipal partners to assist citizens of Ottawa in need to access quality affordable housing."

"The McGuinty government is committed to ensuring that lower income residents of Ontario have access to safe and affordable housing," said Minister Gerretsen. "This project represents a significant step in achieving that goal by addressing the need for more affordable housing in Ottawa. By investing in affordable housing, we are strengthening our communities."

The \$10.9 million project, including \$2.4 million from the Canada–Ontario Affordable Housing Program, will provide 25 townhomes and 58 apartments at 750 March Road in the City of Ottawa. The project is sponsored by Blue Heron Co-operative Homes Incorporated, and the units will be occupied by families and single people with lower incomes.

"The original vision for Kanata was a community with housing for people from all walks of life," said Councillor Feltmate. "The Blue Heron Co-op helps maintain the Kanata vision."

"Our Co-op will provide permanent affordable rental housing for moderate- and low-income households in a self governing community," said Pam Cripps, President of Blue Heron Co-operative Homes. "This housing is desperately needed, and after six long years of struggling to develop Blue Heron Co-op, we are very happy to see governments getting back in to the housing business. We wish to thank all three levels of government for pulling together to make this project a reality. We look forward to being an active member of the Kanata community."

Today's federal and provincial allocation will be complemented by more than \$3.2 million in municipal financial incentives.

In Ottawa, the Government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), has contributed \$6.7 million through 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 \$734 million over the life of the Canada–Ontario Affordable Housing Program Agreement, to assist some

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20,000 Ontario households.

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