



PRESS RELEASE



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Assisted Living Under Construction in Campbell River

CAMPBELL RIVER, British Columbia, November 7, 2005 — Construction started today for the Campbell River and District Association for Community Living's new \$10.8 million housing project for seniors and people with disabilities.

The development, funded in part under the Canada–British Columbia Affordable Housing Agreement, through Independent Living BC, will create 54 subsidized assisted living units.

"Seniors and people with disabilities will be able to live in a better environment and receive the special attention they deserve, thanks to the co-operative efforts between various levels of government and local partners" said the Honourable Keith Martin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defense and Member of Parliament for Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing. "This project demonstrates concretely the commitment of the Government of Canada to provide an integrated approach to care for the vulnerable members of our society."

"Seniors on the Island are asking for more housing and health options," said Comox Valley MLA Stan Hagen. "Assisted living provides choice, independence and dignity for our seniors and peace of mind for families, knowing their loved ones are receiving the right level of care in their home communities."

The assisted living units are self-contained apartments with a 24-hour response system. Residents receive personal care services such as recreational opportunities and assistance with medications, housekeeping, meals, and laundry services. The federal government, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), provides funding to cover capital costs and BC Housing provides funding to ensure that the housing remains affordable. Vancouver Island Health Authority will provide ongoing funding for personal care services and a portion of the hospitality services to ensure that tenants have access to the healthcare support they need to remain independent.

"Vancouver Island Health Authority is committed to meeting the health needs of seniors across Vancouver Island, especially given the growth we expect to see in the seniors' population," said Dr. Richard Crow, Executive Medical Director, Continuing Health Services, Vancouver Island Health Authority. "We believe these new units will offer new options for Campbell River seniors to remain as independent as possible while still having their care needs met."

The new development will also provide space for an adult day program and other services, such as meal programs, intended to support elderly people living in the surrounding neighborhood.

"Our motto is helping others help themselves," said Greg Hill, Executive Director, Campbell River and District Association for Community Living. "By allowing people to live independently for as long as possible, we are truly adding to their quality of life."

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The Province of British Columbia, through the Independent Living BC program, is committed to providing 3,500 affordable assisted living apartments across the province. To date, more than 3,300 Independent Living BC units, or 94 per cent, have been allocated in communities across the province.

Of the 3,500 assisted living apartments, the Vancouver Island Health Authority has been allocated 696 units under Independent Living BC. 157 units have been completed with 479 units under construction or in development. The remaining 60 units will be allocated to the Comox Valley area in the coming months.

The Government of Canada, through CMHC, will contribute \$130 million towards affordable housing in B.C. by 2008. The provincial government, through BC Housing, will provide a minimum of \$34 million annually to subsidize the cost of units built under the Canada-British Columbia Affordable Housing Agreement, as part of a larger strategy to provide a range of housing options for British Columbians in greatest need.

Today's announcement reflects the B.C. government's goal of providing the best system of support in Canada for seniors. The Province's September Budget Update provided an additional \$242 million over three years to improve the lives of seniors, including: renewing the Seniors' Supplement, to provide a monthly benefit for approximately 40,000 low income seniors; doubling annual funding for the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program; and updating existing seniors' health facilities and strengthening and modernizing the full range of services for seniors, to help them live as independently as possible.

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Backgrounder

Campbell River and District Association for Community Living

In 1961, the Campbell River Association for Retarded Children was formed by a small group of parents who wanted their children with mental disabilities to acquire an education in a school setting in their hometown. As the Association's ideas and activities expanded, so did its support from within the community. In 1964, with the help of local service clubs, and many hours of work by volunteers, the Achievement Centre known as Our Place, was built.

In 1989, the organization changed its name to the Campbell River and District Association for Community Living (CRADACL). CRADACL is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to advocate for services and/or provide services for people with special needs, and their families, who live in the Campbell River area. The Association's intent is to enable these people to attain the greatest level of independence they wish, and to ensure that their basic human rights are respected.

CRADACL is affiliated with the Vancouver Island Regional Association for the Mentally Handicapped and the British Columbia Association for Community Living. CRADACL provides a centre where people with special needs can enjoy each other's company in an atmosphere of respect and understanding. It also offers opportunities for regular respite for families and caregivers for the Association's clients. CRADACL's 150 employees provide physical, speech and

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pathological therapy to their clients, and supervise day programs to teach life skills, work and self-advocacy skills.

Assisted Living Details

The development will have 52 one-bedroom and two two-bedroom assisted living units for seniors. The building, a four-storey wood-framed structure will also include an Adult Day Care space funded through Vancouver Island Health Authority.

Partners and Funding:

Capital cost of this project is \$10.8 million.

- The federal government, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, is providing a \$1.35 million capital grant.
- The province, through BC Housing, will provide housing subsidies of \$7.7 million over 35 years.
- Vancouver Island Health Authority will provide funding for the personal care services to tenants and has also provided land and cash equity totalling approximately \$1.43 million.
- The Campbell River and District will provide \$60,000 towards the subsidized assisted living.