



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **Federal Government Funds Repairs to Affordable Housing in Lumby**

**LUMBY, British Columbia, November 14, 2005** — Senator Jack Austin, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing, and family-owned Woodbought Properties Inc. today announced the completion of renovations to Woodbought Properties, an affordable housing development in Lumby. The federal government, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), provided funding of \$105,604 through its Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) to repair these six units of affordable rental accommodation. Woodbought Properties Inc. provided \$5,988, the remainder of the funds needed to complete the necessary repairs.

"This partnership between the Government of Canada and Woodbought Properties Inc. exemplifies what can be accomplished when we work together," said Senator Austin. "The restoration of these units is ensuring access to adequate, safe and affordable housing for the families who call Woodbought Properties home."

Formerly the Monashee Motel, the majority of the bathroom and kitchen fixtures, cabinets, plumbing, flooring and windows in the building were over 50 years old, prior to the restoration, which also included replacing the building's foundation. The building is presently home to seven families; one resident has lived here for more than 20 years. Heating system upgrades, as well as window replacement, have been especially appreciated.

A local contractor, Bob Nicholls, oversaw the entire project and completed the work by hiring Lumby tradesmen Ron McKinnon, Ernie Robertson, Ron Wilson, Larry Hanna, Bob Lauzon and Gloria Nicholls. Christopher Plumber, of Vernon, completed the plumbing work and 1&2 Electric, also of Vernon, handled the electrical repairs.

"CMHC's RRAP grant allowed for the necessary repairs to be made to the building over a very short period of time," explained Leanne Boterill of Woodbought Properties. "As a result of this assistance, the rents paid by our low-income residents were not impacted by the repair costs and they continue to be affordable."

The Government of Canada, through CMHC, spends approximately \$230 million in British Columbia annually, primarily in support of some 74,150 low- and moderate-income households, including ongoing financial support for the many non-profit and cooperative housing projects.

As part of Canada's national housing strategy, the Federal Government has recently extended funding for CMHC's RRAP and other renovation programs geared towards low-income Canadians. A total of \$384 million will be available through CMHC for these popular programs nationally. For 2005, the allocation for British Columbia for RRAP and related programs is approximately \$16.2 million. Rental RRAP offers assistance to landlords of affordable housing to pay for mandatory repairs to self-contained units occupied by low-income tenants.

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For more information on CMHC's Assisted Housing programs, call 1 (800) 668-2642.