



PRESS RELEASE



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Construction Begins on Affordable Housing Project in Peterborough

PETERBOROUGH, Ontario, November 25, 2005 — The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the City of Peterborough held a ceremony today to mark the start of renovation of the Woollen Mill, a project that will create 50 units of affordable housing in Peterborough under the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

The Honourable Peter Adams, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and MP for Peterborough, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing; Jeff Leal, MPP for Peterborough, on behalf of Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable John Gerretsen; and Peterborough Mayor Sylvia Sutherland attended the ceremony.

"Affordable housing is a priority for the Government of Canada," said MP Adams. "The federal assistance is part of the \$1 billion announcement under a 2001 federal-provincial framework, and the 2003 Federal Budget. We are pleased to be working collaboratively with our provincial and municipal partners to help assist those in need in Peterborough to access quality affordable housing."

"The McGuinty government knows that safe, affordable housing is the foundation for a better quality of life and I am happy to be here as we celebrate the start of construction of 50 new units here in Peterborough," said MPP Leal. "The Woollen Mill project is particularly exciting because it will give new life to a heritage building while increasing the supply of affordable accommodation in our community."

The \$6.5 million project, including \$1.45 million from the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program, will provide 50 apartments at 526 McDonnell Street in the City of Peterborough. CMHC also contributed a further \$990,000 under the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program. The project is sponsored by the Peterborough Community Housing Corporation, and the units will be occupied by seniors, families, persons with special needs and others with lower incomes.

"The City has been looking forward with anticipation to the launch of this truly innovative project to provide much-needed affordable housing in Peterborough," said Mayor Sutherland. "We are in the process of taking an architecturally distinguished old industrial building and adapting it to an exciting re-use. This is what sustainable development is all about. And we are showing that partnerships can and do work."

Today's federal and provincial allocations will be complemented by more than \$1.6 million in municipal financial incentives.

In Peterborough, the Government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), has contributed \$2.25 million under the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

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

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invested at least \$734 million through the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program. In total, the program will help 20,000 Ontario households by 2010.

Under the new program, the City of Peterborough has been allocated \$2.8 million in funding to create 40 new units of rental and supportive housing and \$720,000 to fund 50 housing allowances.

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