



PRESS RELEASE



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\$3.7 Million Allocated for Affordable Housing in Waterloo

KITCHENER, Ontario, November 28, 2005 — The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the Region of Waterloo held a ribbon-cutting ceremony today to mark the opening of six buildings that will provide 244 units of affordable housing in the Region of Waterloo area under the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program. The units have been built for lower-income individuals, seniors, and families in the area.

The Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing, the Honourable Karen Redman, MP for Kitchener Centre, Lynn Myers, MP for Kitchener-Conestoga, the Honourable Andrew Telegdi, MP for Kitchener – Waterloo, John Milloy, MPP for Kitchener Centre, on behalf of the Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Ken Seiling, Chair of the Region of Waterloo, attended the ceremony.

"When it comes to building strong communities and the housing within them, it takes the efforts of many to achieve success," said Minister Fontana. "Today's ceremony to officially open these six buildings is about celebrating the partnership between all three levels of government, along with the various building sponsors, as we work together to make the vision of affordable housing a reality for the residents of the Region of Waterloo."

"The McGuinty government understands that one of our basic responsibilities is to help provide affordable housing for people in this province who need it," said Milloy. "These six projects will provide much-needed new and affordable housing for people with lower-incomes here in Kitchener. They are tangible proof of Ontario's commitment to affordable housing."

The six projects, totalling \$21 million, include \$3.7 million from the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program. They will provide:

- 22 units for lower-income single persons at 75 Charles Street East, sponsored by House of Friendship of Kitchener – Waterloo;
- 52 units for lower-income families and single persons at 301 Spadina Road East, sponsored by Cook Homes Ltd.;
- 32 units for lower-income seniors at 239 Franklin Street North, sponsored by the Region of Waterloo;
- 87 units for lower-income families and single persons at 695 Strasburg Road, sponsored by Cypriot Homes Association;
- 16 units for lower-income families at 220-234 Village Road, sponsored by Menno Homes Inc.; and
- 35 units for lower-income families and single persons at 144 Highland Road West, sponsored by Old Firehall Apartments Ltd.

The federal and provincial funding for these projects is complemented by more than \$5.4 million in municipal financial incentives.

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"Since the Region of Waterloo began its Affordable Housing Strategy in 2001, we have seen the development of 891 new affordable housing units in this Region," said Ken Seiling, Regional Chair. "The response in this community in rising to the challenge of creating affordable housing has been tremendous and the success of our programs is very much due to the enthusiastic and dedicated participation of our community partners."

In the Region of Waterloo, the Government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), has contributed \$8.7 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 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 Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program, the Regional Municipality of Waterloo has been allocated over \$10.1 million in funding to create 145 units of rental and supportive housing, and over \$2.2 million for 160 housing allowances.

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