



PRESS RELEASE



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Federal Government Funds Repairs to Affordable Seniors Housing

SICAMOUS, British Columbia, December 16, 2005 — The completion of renovations to Eagle Valley Haven, an affordable housing development in Sicamous, was announced today by the Eagle Valley Senior Citizens Housing Society, and Nelson Merizzi, CMHC's General Manager for the BC Region. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) provided funding of \$138,923 through its Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) to repair these 28 units of affordable rental accommodation.

"The renovations to this development will allow seniors in Sicamous to live in a quality environment at an affordable cost," said Nelson Merizzi. "Shelter is one of the foundations upon which healthy communities and individual dignity are built. We are pleased to work with our partners in British Columbia to provide more seniors with better housing in their community."

CMHC's RRAP program funding allowed for numerous repairs and replacements to be made at Eagle Valley Haven including: repainting the exterior, replacing the asphalt driveway, sidewalk and bedroom windows, the addition of wall heaters, hard wired smoke alarms, new carpet and kitchen countertops, range hoods, bathroom sinks with single lever faucets, weather stripping, and hot water tanks.

The Eagle Valley Senior Citizens Housing Society (EVSCHS), a non-profit society formed in April 1974, has a mandate to build and maintain low cost seniors' housing. The Eagle Valley Haven seniors' complex was built in 1977. Since that time, the society has maintained high quality, low cost accommodation for local seniors, meeting all obligations to seniors, providers, and the community.

"CMHC's RRAP grant allowed for necessary repairs to be made to the building over a very short period of time," explained Diana Stooshnov, Manager of the Haven complex. "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 \$240 million in British Columbia annually, primarily in support of some 74,150 lower-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. For 2005/2006, 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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