



PRESS RELEASE



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Affordable Housing Project Begins Construction

KINGSTON, Ontario, May 12, 2006 — The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the City of Kingston held a sod-turning ceremony today to mark the start of construction on a project that will create six new units of affordable housing for lower income families and single people in Kingston under the Canada — Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

The announcement was made by the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development; the Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and MPP for Kingston and the Islands; and the Deputy Mayor of the City of Kingston, Bittu George on behalf of Mayor Harvey Rosen.

"This project demonstrates the Government of Canada's commitment to working with our partners to provide affordable housing for the residents of Kingston," said Minister Finley.

"The McGuinty government firmly believes that every person in this province has the right to safe, healthy, affordable shelter," said Minister Gerretsen. "This project represents more than bricks and mortar; it represents a chance for a new start in life for the people who will call the Elizabeth Fry apartments home."

The \$416,000 project, including \$174,000 from the Canada — Ontario Affordable Housing Program, will provide 6 apartments at 39 Russell Street in Kingston. The project is sponsored by the Elizabeth Fry Society of Kingston.

"Canada's First Capital is certainly a great place to live. This project will assist six more households to realize their dream of having a safe and secure place to live within our great city," said Mayor Harvey Rosen. "The City of Kingston, as one of the financial contributors to this housing project, is pleased to celebrate with our community partners in the ground breaking for this development sponsored by the Elizabeth Fry Society."

Today's federal and provincial allocation will be complemented by more than \$30,000 in municipal financial incentives.

"There is a profound need for appropriate affordable housing in the Greater Kingston community and this is a good step forward in meeting the needs of women and their children," said Trish Crawford, Executive Director of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Kingston. "This kind of initiative is in keeping with the type of work that the Elizabeth Fry society of Kingston has been doing for nearly sixty years and is an excellent way to end Elizabeth Fry Week."

In Kingston, the Government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), has contributed \$2.2 million through 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 invest at least \$734 million over the life of the Canada — Ontario Affordable Housing Program. In total, the program will help 20,000 Ontario households by 2010.

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