



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **Opening 20 New Social and Community Housing Units in Saint-Raymond**

**SAINT-RAYMOND, Quebec, May 19, 2006** — Seniors with limited mobility in Quebec now have more options to live independently thanks to the construction of 20 new housing units as part of Phase II of Habitations Saint-Raymond.

This announcement was made today by Jean-Pierre Soucy, MNA for Portneuf, on behalf of Nathalie Normandeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Regions. In addition to Jean-Pierre Soucy, Rolland Dion, Mayor of the municipality of Saint-Raymond, Jean-Guy Denis, Chair of the Board of Directors of Habitations Saint-Raymond, CMHC representatives, as well as residents and community partners also attended the ceremony.

The conversion of this former convent into a housing project, which required investments of nearly \$2 million, was completed thanks to the participation of public, private and community partners. The financial contributions for the development of this project, totalling \$1,292,980, were assumed by the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ), for an amount of \$780,400 under the AccèsLogis Québec program, by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), which provided a sum of \$180,000 to support the recycling of a non-residential building into a housing project (conversion component) and, lastly, by the community, which contributed a sum of \$332,580 to the project, including \$150,000 from the Caisse populaire Desjardins de Saint-Raymond. The municipality of Saint-Raymond, for its part, is providing a capitalized tax rebate of \$39,095. The other costs are being assumed by Habitations Saint-Raymond, through a mortgage loan secured by the SHQ.

"For the Government of Quebec, the Government of Canada and the municipality of Saint-Raymond, the completion of these 20 new housing units is the outcome of an exemplary partnership. But for a good number of our seniors, they provide the possibility of accessing comfortable, quality housing, at a cost in line with their modest financial capacity. There is nothing I find more heartening than to see us build in view of offering a better life," commented Jean-Pierre Soucy.

"This project shows how governments and the private sector can work together to bring about housing for the residents of Saint-Raymond," said Charles Chenard, General Manager, CMHC Quebec Business Centre. "When it comes to building communities and the housing within them, it takes the efforts of many partners to work effectively with community organizations and the public sector," he added.

Among the residents of Phase II of Habitations Saint-Raymond, 10 households can benefit from the Rent Supplement program, which provides financial assistance to low-income individuals who would otherwise have to spend more than 25 per cent of their income on housing.

The development of this project is part of the Government of Quebec's initiative to produce 20,000 social, community and private housing units for low- and moderate-income households.

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