



PRESS RELEASE



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Affordable Housing Seniors Project Opens in Hamilton

HAMILTON, Ontario, June 2, 2006 — The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the City of Hamilton held a ribbon-cutting ceremony today to mark the official opening of the Taras Shevchenko Homes for the Aged. The project will create 24 units of affordable housing for seniors in the City of Hamilton under the Canada — Ontario Affordable Housing Program. MPP for Stoney Creek, Jennifer Mossop, on behalf of John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Councillor Bernie Morelli, on behalf of Hamilton Mayor Larry Di Ianni, and federal officials attended the ceremony.

"The units announced today are a good example of the Government of Canada's commitment to providing affordable housing for seniors, and to building strong communities across Canada," said the Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance and Minister Responsible for the GTA, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development.

"The McGuinty government is on the side of seniors who built our communities and are our link to the heritage of our province," said Mossop. "We are proud to fund such a worthy project as Taras Shevchenko which will provide Hamilton seniors the much deserved opportunity to live with dignity and independence in their own communities."

The \$2.1 million project, including \$600,000 from the Canada — Ontario Affordable Housing Program, will provide 24 new apartments at 190 Gage Avenue South in the City of Hamilton. The project is sponsored by Taras Shevchenko Homes for the Aged, and the units will be occupied by seniors.

"Projects of this nature show that when we work together we can achieve great success," said Mayor Larry Di Ianni. "This is a worthy project for our Hamilton seniors and one in which all three levels of government can be proud to be a part of."

"It is heartening to see the community responding to the affordable housing challenges facing Hamilton. The beauty of this project is that it is also an infill project in the lower part of the city," says Councillor Brian McHattie, President, City Housing Hamilton. "This makes effective use of both our existing physical and social infrastructure, all while contributing to the vitality of the neighbourhood."

"After 20 years of hard work and dedicated fundraising efforts by the Taras Group, this is a dream come true, said John Mykytyshyn on behalf of the Board of Directors for Taras Shevchenko Non-Profit Housing Corporation and Taras Shevchenko Homes for the Aged. "Sincere thanks also go out to the federal government, the provincial government and the City of Hamilton, for their contributions to the project. What wonderful gratification it brings for the seniors to have a place to call their own."

Today's federal and provincial allocation will be complemented by more than \$142,000 in municipal financial incentives.

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In Hamilton, the Government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has allocated \$9.7 million under 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 over the life of the Canada — Ontario Affordable Housing Program. In total, the program will help 20,000 Ontario households by 2010.

For more information, please contact:

Kathie Howes
CMHC
647-225-3730

Patti Munce
Office of Minister Gerretsen
Minister of Municipal Affairs
and Housing
416-585-6333

Keith Extance
Housing Branch Community
Services Department
City of Hamilton
905-546-2424 ext. 3745

Brenda Osborne
Taras Shevchenko
905-524-2985

Michael Kirkopoulos
Office of Mayor Di Ianni
905-546-4106

For more information visit:

www.mah.gov.on.ca