



**PRESS RELEASE**



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## **New Seniors Housing Complex Under Way in Edmonton**

**EDMONTON, Alberta, June 10, 2006** — Centre de santé Saint-Thomas Health Centre held a site blessing and unveiled a model for their almost \$25 million seniors' housing complex, that will contain 200 housing units. The new housing facility is located at 9040 - 84th Avenue. Construction started earlier this spring and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2007.

The centre has received \$2.5 million in federal and provincial grants under the Canada – Alberta Affordable Housing Program for the provision of 50 affordable housing units to low-income residents.

Rahim Jaffer, Member of Parliament for Edmonton – Strathcona, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, Yvonne Fritz, Alberta Seniors and Community Supports Minister, and Maurice Gaudet, President of Saint-Thomas attended the ceremony.

"Canada's new government is committed to supporting affordable housing for Canadians and we are pleased to be working with our partners in the province and in the community to make projects like this one a reality," said Mr. Jaffer.

"This is a great example of the community, various levels of government and stakeholder groups working together to meet local needs," said Alberta Seniors and Community Supports Minister Yvonne Fritz. "The Government of Alberta is proud to be a partner in helping provide affordable housing options for the seniors in Edmonton."

Health and accommodation services will be provided in both French and English within an integrated health care centre.

"The Board of Centre de santé Saint-Thomas Health Centre and The Good Samaritan Society are thrilled with the progress of this project that is urgently needed to meet the needs of the French-speaking population of Edmonton," said Maurice Gaudet, President of Saint-Thomas. "Our thanks go to both the federal and provincial governments for their financial assistance, Capital Health Region, and members of the Edmonton Francophone community who have all worked together to help make this project a reality."

All of the housing units will be private and are expected to create a "home-like" atmosphere for the residents. The main floor of the complex will include the Primary Health Care Centre and Adult Day Program. The centre's main food preparation area will be able to prepare about 500 meals a day, and will include other amenities such as cafeteria, beauty shop, multipurpose rooms, resident and volunteer lodges.

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