



**PRESS RELEASE**



*Canadian Mortgage News - National Archive 2006*

## **New Starts for Women Unveils Shelter Renovations**

**RED LAKE, Ontario, June 12, 2006** — New Starts for Women celebrated the unveiling of renovations to its shelter today. The 10-bed shelter provides a safe environment and services for women and children who are victims of violence.

The federal government provided \$86,914 through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) Shelter Enhancement Program to renovate and upgrade the shelter.

"The Government of Canada is proud to support New Starts for Women in making a real difference in the lives of vulnerable women and children", said the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development.

The renovations include playground equipment for the children, safety glass, new flooring and an auto transfer switch for the emergency generator.

"These renovations have allowed New Starts to enhance the level of safety, security and comfort available to women and children when seeking shelter from violence," said Kathy Latell, Executive Director of New Starts for Women.

New Starts for Women provides a caring and non-judgmental environment for abused women and their children that is respectful of cultural and personal beliefs. They also work towards educating the community on prevention of family violence.

The shelter services a population of more than 8,000 in Red Lake and 16 surrounding remote communities. On average, 160 women and 223 children access the services of the shelter each year and 1565 crisis calls are received annually.

"The upgrades and renovations recognize and take steps to address the serious risks to life and safety that women and children face when experiencing violence. For many of these families, finding protection in a safe physical environment is the first step in establishing a safe and healthy future which supports the philosophy and mandate of New Starts for Women," said Ms. Latell.

CMHC's Shelter Enhancement Program offers financial assistance for the repair, rehabilitation and improvement of existing shelters for women and their children, youth or men who are victims of family violence, as well as for the acquisition or construction of new shelters and second-stage housing where needed.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has been Canada's national housing agency for over 60 years. CMHC is committed to helping Canadians access a wide choice of quality, affordable homes, while making vibrant, healthy communities and cities a reality across the country. For more information call 1-800-668-2642.

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