



**PRESS RELEASE**



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## **Muslim Welfare Centre of Whitby Unveils Renovations**

**WHITBY, Ontario, July 20, 2006** — Muslim Welfare Centre celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its Muslim Welfare Home for Needy Women and Children in Whitby by unveiling renovations today. The 33-bed shelter provides a safe environment and services for women and children who are victims of abuse and violence.

The federal government provided \$78,243 through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) Shelter Enhancement Program to renovate and upgrade the shelter.

“Canada’s new government is proud to have helped to renovate the Muslim Welfare Home. Here, women will be able to rebuild their lives and focus on a safe and secure future.” said the Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance and Regional Minister for the GTA, on behalf of Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development.

Major indoor and outdoor renovations included new video surveillance and heating systems, windows, fencing, as well as repair and upgrading work on the kitchen and bedrooms.

“These renovations will enable us to improve the quality of life for women and their children who are seeking shelter from abuse and violence,” said Sibtay Naqvi, Chief Executive Officer of the Muslim Welfare Home. “By providing housing for women and their children in a setting that is supportive and accessible, we hope to help a woman increase her chances of a successful transition to community living.”

In 10 years, the Muslim Welfare Home for Needy Women and Children has helped 2637 women in the Durham Region. Last year, the shelter assisted 351 women and their children.

The Muslim Welfare Centre has been offering safe, short-term affordable housing to abused women and their children of all communities irrespective of Religion, Nationality, Caste or Creed across the Greater Toronto Area since 1993. It also provides a caring and non-judgmental environment for women of all faiths and their children that are respectful of cultural, personal and religious beliefs.

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.

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