



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **Affordable Housing Project Opens in Bonnechere Valley**

**BONNECHERE VALLEY, Ontario, August 24, 2006** —The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, the County of Renfrew and the Township of Bonnechere Valley held a ceremony today to mark the opening of Fairfields, an affordable housing project that creates 24 units of affordable housing in the Township of Bonnechere Valley under the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

Cheryl Gallant, MP for Renfrew – Nipissing – Pembroke, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development; the Honourable John Gerretsen, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Reeve Janice Bush, Chair of the Renfrew County Social Services Committee; and Bonnechere Valley Township Mayor Zig Mintha congratulated the project sponsor, Eganville and Area Long Term Care Corporation, at a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open Fairfields.

“Canada’s new Government is proud to have worked with its Bonnechere Valley partners to create 24 new apartments for seniors,” said Ms. Gallant. “This will allow them to live as independently as possible in their community while having access to the services they need.”

“The McGuinty government is on the side of the most vulnerable,” said Minister Gerretsen. “This provision of safe and affordable housing is a priority for this government. The Fairfields project is sure to make a significant difference in the lives of lower income seniors in Eganville by offering them the opportunity to live independently and with dignity.”

The \$3.3 million project, including over \$1.6 million from the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program, will provide 24 new apartments at 30 Bell Street in the Township of Bonnechere Valley. The project is sponsored by Eganville and Area Long Term Care Corporation, and the units will be occupied by seniors.

County of Renfrew Warden Bob Sweet acknowledged the efforts of the local community to bring this project to completion. “The County of Renfrew elected officials and staff are proud to be a partner in the Fairfields project. Work began on the Affordable Housing Program application before details were confirmed. This project is a reminder to everyone that great things are possible through partnerships.”

Reeve Janice Bush, Chair of the County of Renfrew’s Social Services Committee also praised the partnership effort. “All levels of government have contributed to making this development possible. This initiative will provide a facility and services in the community that are absolutely critical in order to keep our local seniors in the Eganville community. Thank you to the Eganville and Area Long Term Care Corporation team for their leadership and dedication to this project.”

Bonnechere Valley Township Mayor Zig Mintha extended a warm welcome on behalf of the residents of the area. “Our community is stronger today because of the dedication of all levels of government to make this building a reality. Not only did the federal and provincial governments assist our municipality, but also many of our neighbouring communities including our own municipal government. Many businesses, industries, service clubs and individuals very

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generously contributed to this project. I extend a heartfelt thanks to all those involved.”

Today’s federal and provincial allocation will be complemented by more than \$364,000 in municipal financial incentives.

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 invest at least \$734 million in affordable housing over the life of the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program. In total, the program will help 20,000 Ontario households by 2010.

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