



PRESS RELEASE



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Affordable Seniors' Housing to be Built in Strasbourg

STRASBOURG, Saskatchewan, August 30, 2006 — Construction of sixteen new affordable housing units for low to modest-income seniors officially began today with a sod turning ceremony in the town of Strasbourg.

The two-bedroom, life-lease units are being constructed under the Centenary Affordable Housing Program (CAHP) with funding assistance from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC), the Town of Strasbourg and the RM's of Longlaketon, McKillop and Last Mountain Valley. The project is being coordinated by the Last Mountain Housing Association, a community based non-profit corporation in Strasbourg. The project is scheduled for completion in 2007.

"The development of this project will allow seniors in Strasbourg to live in a quality environment at an affordable cost," said Tom Lukiwski, Member of Parliament for Regina – Lumsden-Lake Centre, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Canada. "Canada's new Government is very proud of the work we are doing with our partners to improve the quality of life for seniors in this community and across Canada."

"Today we celebrate the beginning of sixteen new affordable housing units for seniors, thanks to the provincial HomeFirst strategy," Community Resources Minister Buckley Belanger said. "The province has been working closely with communities to develop innovative, cost-effective housing solutions. Our seniors helped build our province, and this project helps us meet our goal to ensure people have adequate, affordable homes in their retirement."

"What an exciting time in Strasbourg, as we witness the different stages of development in the new housing units as they are being built," Mayor Carol Schultz said. "Along with the new owners of these units, we are proud and privileged to have this facility in our community. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the volunteer board members of the Last Mountain Housing Association, for it was their commitment, determination and belief in this project that we are all celebrating this moment today."

The total capital cost of the project is estimated to be \$1,935,018 (\$120,939 per unit). Under CAHP, \$640,000 is being contributed (\$320,000 from CMHC; \$256,000 from SHC; and \$64,000 from the Town of Strasbourg). Other sources of funding include life-lease deposits, mortgage financing and municipal contributions.

CAHP is funded under the Canada – Saskatchewan Affordable Housing Agreement. It provides approximately \$33 million in federal funding for affordable housing, matched by Saskatchewan, municipalities and other parties. With these matching contributions, a total of over \$66 million over five years is available for affordable housing.

Media Inquiries:

Linda Saliken
Community Resources
Regina

Kimberlee Jones
Canada Mortgage
and Housing Corporation

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Phone: 306-787-0246

Calgary

Phone: 403-515-3048

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