



PRESS RELEASE



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Chrysalis Project Celebrates Progress at Ceremony

HUNTSVILLE, Ontario, September 12, 2006 — The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, the District Municipality of Muskoka, Muskoka Women's Advocacy Group and community partners commemorated the progress made on the Chrysalis project with a tree-planting ceremony today.

A newly constructed 10-unit supportive housing project located in Huntsville, Chrysalis was made possible with the generous donations of Muskoka citizens and funding in kind from the Town of Huntsville, District of Muskoka, and funds from the federal and provincial governments under the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

The Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health and Member of Parliament for Parry Sound – Muskoka, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Canada; the Honourable John Gerretsen, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; District Chair Designate Mike Kennedy, and Mayor Hugh Mackenzie congratulated the project sponsor, the Muskoka Women's Advocacy Group, at the ceremony.

"Canada's new Government is proud to work with the province, the municipality and community partners to ensure that those most in need in Huntsville can access safe, supportive housing," said Minister Clement. "This project is a prime example of the impact that individuals, communities and governments can have when they co-operate and work together."

"The provision of safe and affordable housing is a priority for the McGuinty government. Today's event is another symbol of the strength of what can be done through successful partnerships among all orders of government and community partners," said Minister Gerretsen. "The Chrysalis project is sure to make a significant difference in the lives of women and their children in Muskoka by providing a place to house the hope of a better future."

The \$1.58 million project includes over \$700,000 from the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program. The project is sponsored by Muskoka Women's Advocacy Group, and the units will be occupied by women who are victims of domestic violence, low-income families and single persons.

"The District Municipality of Muskoka is pleased that we have been able to support this important project by facilitating a successful application for funding under the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Agreement," said Gord Adams, District Chair. "We know that the Chrysalis development will be an invaluable resource to vulnerable residents in Muskoka. Congratulations to the Muskoka Women's Advocacy Group. I would like to make special mention to the Citizen Committee who worked so diligently on this project to see it through. We look forward to continuing our good work together over the coming years as the project moves to fully operational status."

"Muskoka Women's Advocacy Group is very pleased with the quick progress of this project. Very few new social service capital projects get off the ground this quickly," said Joy McCormack, on behalf of the Board of Directors, Muskoka Women's Advocacy Group. "We are very confident that the housing and shelter components will be up and running well within the next year and that the needs of vulnerable women and children will be ably served. All of this

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would not have occurred without the outstanding generosity of the people of Huntsville and their ongoing support.”

Today’s federal and provincial allocation will be complemented by more than \$60,000 in municipal financial incentives.

The new federal – provincial agreement 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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