



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **Residence La Colombiere, Social and School Reintegration Organization for Young Mothers and Their Children, in Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures**

**QUÉBEC, Quebec, September 12, 2006** — Young single mothers experiencing different problems now have access to more resources thanks to the renovation of a building that allowed for the development of the Résidence La Colombière, a social and school reintegration residence located in Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures.

This announcement was made today by the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, and by Michel Després, Minister of Transport and Minister responsible for the Capitale-Nationale region, on the occasion of the official opening of the residence. France Hamel, MNA for La Peltrie, Marcel Corriveau, Mayor of Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures, and Claire Ménard, Director General of the Résidence La Colombière, were also present at the ceremony.

“Canada’s new government is pleased to have contributed to the renovation of this building that will allow 11 young single mothers to access housing in a quality environment and continue their education, while receiving the necessary support,” said Minister Finley. “Housing is a priority for our government, and we are pleased to work in cooperation with the Government of Quebec, the municipality and community sector representatives to provide our fellow citizens with a better quality of life.”

“The Government of Quebec is sensitive to the distress experienced by a good number of mothers or future mothers with personal adaptation problems. It is important to give them the tools that will help them regain their footing and access living conditions conducive to their growth and that of their children. This is the mission that La Colombière set for itself by developing this brand new shelter, and we are proud to have provided our support for this project, with the cooperation of the Government of Canada,” said Minister Després.

“The facilities developed here reflect the will of the community to help young single mothers access a better quality of life and benefit from healthy guidance and support. In my view, the Résidence La Colombière is a model that could inspire many others,” indicated France Hamel.

The Résidence La Colombière is an innovative and exemplary project, offering young women with personal adaptation problems a living and training environment under one roof. The residence allows these women to grow in an environment favourable to the acquisition of greater autonomy and to build a realistic life plan for themselves and their children.

The Government of Quebec, through various departments and agencies, has provided about \$630,000 in financial assistance to the Résidence La Colombière, since 2003. In particular, there have been contributions of \$195,000 from the ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and \$130,000 from the ministère de l’Éducation. This assistance allowed for the implementation of the reintegration and training program offered by the residence to vulnerable young mothers.

In addition, the renovation of the building required investments of \$807,400. The financial contributions for the development of the residence are being made under the Affordable Housing Agreement. They are being assumed by the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ), which provided an amount of \$201,850, and by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), which contributed a sum of \$605,550 to the project.

Community organizations also showed great generosity, by providing the Résidence La Colombière with financial assistance, first, for its installation and, then, for its operation. This is particularly the case of the Fondation Le Musée du Domaine, which allowed for the purchase of furniture and equipment by providing more than \$115,000. As did the Caisse populaire de Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures through its Fonds d'aide au développement du milieu, the Fondation also contributed to the down payment needed to acquire the building on Pierre-Georges-Roy Street. These two contributions combined exceed \$60,000.

The development of this project is part of the Government of Quebec's initiative to produce 20,000 social, community and private housing units for low- and moderate-income households, as well as people in difficulty with special housing needs, by 2009. This initiative is notably supported by federal funds made available under affordable housing agreements.

The Governments of Canada and Quebec signed two agreements to increase the supply of affordable housing in the province. These agreements provide for a total contribution of \$473 million, with \$236.5 million from the federal government and an equivalent sum on the part of the Quebec government and the municipalities participating in the Affordable Housing Québec and AccèsLogis Québec programs.

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