



PRESS RELEASE



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Camrose Celebrates Two Affordable Housing Projects

CAMROSE, Alberta, October 13, 2006 — Today, the City of Camrose is celebrating the official opening of the \$1.9 million Sparling Manor Affordable Housing project and the dedication of the \$2.0 million Bethany Group Affordable Housing Complex. The projects, located on 53 Street and 52 Avenue, were built with special consideration for disabled residents.

The Sparling Manor project received over \$1.2 million, and the Bethany project received \$900,000 from the federal and provincial governments through the Canada – Alberta Affordable Housing Program. Sparling Manor also received \$500,000 from Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation and Seniors and Community Supports, while the Bethany project received over \$750,000 through the Rural Affordable Housing Partnership Initiative from Alberta Seniors and Community Supports. Both projects will help meet the community's need for sustainable affordable rental housing in the Camrose area.

“Canada's new Government recognizes the importance of affordable housing,” said Kevin Sorenson, Member of Parliament for Crowfoot, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development. “We are pleased to be working with our partners to extend a helping hand to those who need it most in Camrose including families and persons with disabilities.”

“These projects are an excellent example of what we can achieve when we work together,” said Minister of Seniors and Community Supports, Yvonne Fritz. “The Government of Alberta is very proud to be a partner in assisting in the development of quality, sustainable and affordable accommodations for low-income Albertans and those with disabilities.”

The Sparling Manor project has 24 units and is designed to meet the needs of residents with special needs. The 22-one bedroom units and two-two bedroom units are wheelchair accessible. Two of the suites have been completely designed and adapted for wheelchair residents.

“Today is a very proud day for our organization and the City of Camrose, as it is the culmination of 10 years of planning and effort from a number of groups and organizations,” said Dale Bowal, President, Rose City Residential Support Society. “Sparling Manor is a beautiful new facility that will provide residents with a disability with a home that is safe, affordable and will meet their needs.”

The Bethany project is expected to open in the spring of 2007, and will include 18-three bedroom units.

“This project is the culmination of years of hard work by dedicated community members and the Bethany Group is proud to be part of this new and innovative housing solution,” said Denis Beesley, CAO with the Bethany Group. “We know that this affordable housing option will help with the needs of families finding affordable rental homes in an increasingly difficult housing market.”

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For more information on the Canada – Alberta Affordable Housing Program, visit the Alberta Seniors and Community Supports website at www.seniors.gov.ab.ca.

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