



**PRESS RELEASE**



*Canadian Mortgage News - National Archive 2006*

## **\$5 Million Approved for New Rent Supplement Program in Edmonton**

**EDMONTON, Alberta, October 24, 2006** — Three orders of government are joining forces to provide rental assistance to an estimated 400 low-income households in Edmonton. The new program is part of the City of Edmonton's Cornerstones Plan and will receive \$5 million over five years to provide rent supplements for families in urgent need of housing assistance.

A total of \$2.5 million will be invested in this initiative under the Canada – Alberta Affordable Housing Program Agreement. The City of Edmonton will also provide \$2.5 million and will administer the program.

“Canada's new government is proud to help more Edmonton families find stability and security through this important initiative with our partners, the Province of Alberta and the City of Edmonton” said the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development. “This program will make safe, quality affordable housing a reality for hundreds of families and provide them with a chance at a better life.”

This new initiative will provide program participants with a five-year, fixed-rate rent subsidy that will average \$200 per month. Approximately 400 households will benefit from the program over the five-year term of the agreement.

The City of Edmonton will administer the five-year program and will work with local housing management bodies to identify and assess the needs of applicants. The assessment is based on a number of factors including annual household income, current housing situation, the number of dependents, the percentage of income currently spent on rent, emergency situations, overcrowding or if there are prevailing health issues in their current residence. It is expected that funding will be available early in November.

“Partnering with the federal government and the City of Edmonton on the Cornerstones Plan is a unique opportunity to help those in need by responding directly to the housing pressures that are occurring in Edmonton,” said the Honourable Yvonne Fritz, Minister of Seniors and Community Supports. “This is an innovative initiative and will provide immediate relief to those who are in critical need of housing assistance.”

“This program provides a really effective way for our City and its government partners to work with the private sector and leverage funds to have a wide impact,” said Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel. “Through our Cornerstones Plan, the City of Edmonton is doing its part to help our citizens who need housing assistance — a problem that has been exacerbated in this hot economy. I applaud the other orders of government and particularly the Honourable Minister Fritz for working with Edmonton City Council on new solutions while recognizing and committing to shared responsibility to increase the supply of affordable housing in Edmonton and Alberta.”

The Canada – Alberta Affordable Housing Program is assisting in the need for additional sustainable rental housing for low- to moderate-income Albertans, through the construction of new or renovated affordable housing units. Phase two of this program will commit at least \$63 million over two years to affordable housing projects in Alberta. Costs are shared equally by the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta. So far more than \$33 million in projects

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have been committed and/or announced, by the federal and provincial governments for the development of 319 affordable housing units under this phase of the program. It is estimated that over 400 affordable housing units will be developed using phase two funding.

For more information on the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program, visit the Alberta Seniors and Community Supports website at [www.seniors.gov.ab.ca](http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca). For more information on Edmonton's Fixed Rate Rental Supplement Pilot Project, visit [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca).

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### Backgrounder

Project Name:	<b>Rent Supplement Cornerstones Initiative</b>
Applicant:	City of Edmonton
Target Clients:	Low- to moderate-income singles, families, and those with special needs
Number of Units:	Up to 400 units.
Total Project Cost:	\$5 million
Total CAAHP Grant:	\$2.5 million
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