



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **Opening - 16 New Social and Community Housing Units in Cowansville**

**COWANSVILLE, Quebec, October 27, 2006** — People with mental health problems or physical disabilities have more resources thanks to the construction of the 16 housing units that have been part of the Entrée Chez-Soi Brome – Missisquoi adapted residence in Cowansville, for three years now.

This announcement was made today, on the occasion of the official opening of this residence, by the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, by Pierre Paradis, MNA for Brome – Missisquoi, on behalf of Nathalie Normandeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Regions, and by Arthur Fauteux, Mayor of the municipality of Cowansville. In addition to Pierre Paradis and Arthur Fauteux, Nancy Bonneau, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Entrée Chez-Soi Brome – Missisquoi organization, was present at the ceremony, as were residents and community partners.

“Canada’s new Government is pleased to work with the Government of Quebec, the municipality and community sector representatives to better meet the housing needs of people with mental health problems or physical disabilities,” said Minister Cannon. “The housing units officially opened today will provide our citizens with a quality environment that will allow them to remain in their community, close to their families and friends.”

“Housing is a basic need, and the Government of Quebec is making every effort to support people in precarious situations. I am therefore very proud of the development of this adapted residence that accommodates vulnerable people aspiring to greater independence,” commented Pierre Paradis.

The development this housing project required investments of more than \$1.3 million on the part of public, private and community partners. The financial contributions needed for the completion of the project, totalling \$972,362, are being granted under the AccèsLogis Québec program. The subsidy granted by the Société d’habitation du Québec (SHQ) will come to \$298,643, while the community is providing the organization with a sum of \$187,538, including \$167,174 from the municipality of Cowansville. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), for its part, contributed \$486,181 in financial assistance. The balance of the necessary investment is being assumed by Entrée Chez-Soi Brome – Missisquoi through a mortgage loan secured by the SHQ.

All the residents can benefit from the Rent Supplement program, which provides financial assistance to low-income individuals who would otherwise have to spend more than 25% of their income on housing.

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.

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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.

### **Sources:**

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