



PRESS RELEASE



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New \$10M Assisted Living Facility for Mission Seniors

MISSION, British Columbia, October 28, 2006 — Federal, provincial and community funding partners gathered today to celebrate the opening of The Cedars, a new 58-unit assisted living facility in Mission - a first for the community.

"Canada's new government is committed to working with our partners to help seniors live with dignity and independence," said Randy Kamp, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and Member of Parliament for Pitt Meadows – Maple Ridge – Mission, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development. "We are proud to have been involved in the development of the Cedars residence in Mission because it will meet the needs of seniors and help them remain close to family and friends."

The development is a partnership between the Mission Association for Seniors Housing (MASH) and the federal and provincial governments through the Independent Living BC (ILBC) program, as well as the District of Mission, Fraser Health and private donors.

"We are fully committed to improving housing and health options for seniors in our community," said Maple Ridge – Mission MLA Randy Hawes. "This government believes in working together in partnerships, giving our seniors more choices for independent, affordable housing with access to support services when needed."

The project is funded under Independent Living BC (ILBC), an innovative housing-for-health program that meets the needs of lower-income seniors and people with disabilities by providing a middle option between home support and residential care. Assisted living units are self-contained apartments where residents receive meals, housekeeping and laundry services, a 24-hour response system, and assistance with medications.

"Assisted living offers a more tailored approach to addressing seniors' housing and personal care needs," said Keith Anderson, Interim CEO of Fraser Health. "The care we provide at The Cedars will help us to better meet the health needs of Mission and our other growing and aging communities."

"The Cedars will richly add to the lives of seniors in our community," said District of Mission Mayor James Atebe. "It is important to ensure our seniors have the choice to live in the same community they have called home even when their levels of care change."

"Our community has really rallied around The Cedars and has been a vital partner in making this day a reality," said MASH president Don Lobb. "We are excited about the opportunity to offer the very best of care to our community's seniors."

The Province of British Columbia, through the Independent Living BC program is committed to providing more than 4,000 affordable assisting living apartments for B.C. seniors and persons with disabilities. These units are part of the government's commitment to provide 5,000 intermediate and long-term care beds by 2008.

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The Government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, will contribute more than \$130 million by 2010 towards affordable housing in this province. The provincial government, through BC Housing, will provide a minimum of \$34 million annually to subsidize the cost of units built under the Canada – BC Affordable Housing Agreement, as part of a larger strategy to provide a range of housing options for British Columbians in greatest need.

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[See related speech](#)

Backgrounder

The Cedars

The Cedars, located at 7380 Hurd Street in Mission, near the Mission Hospital, will provide a total of 58 units of assisted living for seniors. Of these, 40 will be funded under Independent Living BC, while the additional 18 will provide affordable, non-subsidized supportive housing for seniors. All of the units in the three-storey building are fully accessible and accommodate mobility aids.

The Cedars, whose name pays tribute to the local shake and shingle industry and history of Mission, opened to residents in July 2006.

The Mission Association for Seniors Housing (MASH) was formed in January 2000 to provide and operate affordable and accessible seniors' housing in Mission. The non-profit society is an amalgamation of six local community groups, representing about 750 members. These partnership organizations currently manage 95 units of seniors' independent housing and 76 residential care beds.

Partners and Funding:

The capital cost of this project is \$9.99 million with funding provided through:

- A \$1.4 million capital grant through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).
- \$4.6 million over 35 years in operating subsidies from the Province, through BC Housing, for the 40 ILBC units. Financing was provided for the remaining units;
- \$628,000 annually from Fraser Health for personal care services to tenants in the ILBC units;
- \$580,000 in land equity and \$200,000 in sponsorship contributions from MASH;
- \$241,475 in reductions on various costs from The District of Mission.