



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **\$1.7 Million Allocated for Affordable Housing in County of Oxford**

**WOODSTOCK, Ontario, November 14, 2006** — The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the County of Oxford today launched three affordable housing projects that will create 54 new units of affordable housing for lower income households in Oxford County.

The announcement was made by Dave MacKenzie, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety and Member of Parliament for Oxford, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development; the Honourable John Gerretsen, Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Oxford County Warden Donald S. Woolcott; and Woodstock Mayor Michael Harding.

"The development of these new units will allow lower income families and individuals in Oxford County to live in safe, quality housing at an affordable cost and start a new page in their lives," said Parliamentary Secretary MacKenzie.

"These projects demonstrate the commitment of Canada's new government to help create housing for those who need it most."

"The McGuinty government is committed to help provide affordable housing for Ontarians who need it," said Minister Gerretsen. "The development of these projects is a major step forward in helping the most vulnerable members of our society live independently and with dignity."

Today's announcement included a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the start of construction of the Homestead Christian Care Independent Living Apartments, a \$1.2 million project that creates 15 units and includes \$525,000 from the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing program. The project is sponsored by Homestead Christian Care.

Two additional projects, totalling more than \$2.7 million, will provide:

- Twenty-seven units for single people with lower incomes at 318 Dundas Street in Woodstock. The project will receive \$729,000 under the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program and is sponsored by King Street Holdings Ltd.
- Twelve new units of affordable housing for singles and persons with disabilities at 119 – 123 John Street in Ingersoll. The project will receive \$480,000 under the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program and is sponsored by Sands Capital Ltd.

The County of Oxford is supporting these new affordable housing projects by providing development charge exemptions and lower property tax rates. The City of Woodstock is also helping ensure affordable rents by providing development charges exemptions to the Homestead Christian Care project.

Donald Woolcott, Oxford County Warden stated "It's good to see Oxford County's housing strategy producing results in partnership with the Federal and Provincial governments as well as community groups and private builders."

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Woodstock Mayor Michael Harding added "Woodstock is a thriving city and it is important that the housing needs of all of our citizens can be met."

"Our town needs new affordable housing and we are very pleased to see this housing move forward," said Ingersoll Mayor Paul Holbrough.

The new Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program comprises a commitment of \$301 million from each of the two senior levels of government. In total, the federal, provincial and municipal governments will invest at least \$734 million in the program, which will provide affordable housing for 20,000 households in Ontario.

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