



PRESS RELEASE



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New Integrated Housing Complex Opens in Dauphin

DAUPHIN, Manitoba, March 10, 2007 — A new housing complex, with 21 units providing emergency, long-term and transitional shelter apartments for Dauphin area residents, was officially opened today by Inky Mark, Member of Parliament for Dauphin – Swan River – Marquette on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, and the Honourable Stan Struthers, Minister of Manitoba Conservation, on behalf of the Honourable Gord Mackintosh, Minister of Manitoba Family Services and Housing.

“Canada's New Government is working to ensure funding is available for projects like this one in Dauphin, that address the challenges of homelessness in communities across the country,” said MP Mark. “I am pleased to be here to open this project, which will make an important difference in the lives of individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.”

“This kind of community-lead partnership and intergovernmental support benefits residents of the entire Parkland region,” said Struthers. “By providing affordable new housing for those who need it most we build a stronger, healthier community.”

“We’re pleased to see new affordable housing in Dauphin,” said Dauphin Mayor Alex Paul. “Providing safe economical accommodations for all citizens is important to us.”

“We know good affordable housing conditions improve the mental health of our population,” said Bob Curle, board member CMHA Swan Valley Branch. “We’ve expanded our vision to become a regional entity, initiated a housing study in Parkland, and sponsored this affordable housing project in Dauphin.”

The new project, located at 123 – 1st Avenue S.W. in Dauphin, includes one and two bedroom units renting below the median market level. The total cost of this project is estimated at more than \$1.4 million. The Swan Valley Branch of the CMHA Parkland sponsored the project, which is providing integrated housing in the Parkland area. The project received \$500,000 in funding under the Canada – Manitoba Affordable Housing Program Agreement, and \$275,000 under the Government of Canada’s National Homelessness Initiative (NHI).

The governments of Canada and Manitoba will each contribute \$36.9 million to the Affordable Housing Initiative in Manitoba, demonstrating a commitment to increasing the supply of affordable housing in the province.

For further information, please contact:

Kimberlee Jones
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Communications and Marketing
403-515-3048

L. Nadine Delisle
Communications Services Manitoba
Public Affairs
204-945-3810

Backgrounder

Canada – Manitoba Affordable Housing Agreement

First Phase:

The governments of Canada and Manitoba signed the Affordable Housing Initiative in 2002. The first phase provided federal funding of \$25.39 million with matching contributions of \$25.39 million from the Province of Manitoba and community-based housing partners. This agreement provided funding for a new rental housing-supply program, a rehabilitation/conversion program, a new homebuyer down-payment program and a home ownership-supply program.

Second Phase:

The second phase increased the total current investment commitments by \$23.08 million by 2010. This is equally shared by Canada and Manitoba for:

- a new rental housing-supply program to increase the amount of new rental affordable housing for low-income renters;
- a rehabilitation/conversion housing program to rehabilitate severely deteriorated properties into rental or ownership affordable housing for low-income households;
- a homebuyer down-payment assistance program to help low-income renters become first-time homebuyers of new or recently renovated affordable housing developed under Affordable Housing programs and;
- a new homeownership supply program to increase homeownership by encouraging construction of new housing in targeted urban revitalization and remote areas.

As well, federal assistance is increased to 50 per cent of capital costs to a maximum of \$75,000 per unit. The units are expected to remain affordable and be occupied by low-income households for a minimum of 10 years. Phase II is targeted to people on or eligible to be on a social-housing waiting list.

Other Government of Canada Housing Support in Manitoba:

The Government of Canada annually supports housing with approximately \$113.1 million in grants, contributions and subsidies which primarily serve some 43,200 lower-income families, seniors, persons with disabilities, Aboriginal people and victims of domestic violence. Recently, it announced \$256 million for the two-year extension of CMHC's renovation programs. This will improve the quality of housing for some 38,000 low-income Canadians. These investments will provide concrete, meaningful and lasting results for Canadians who need safe and adequate housing.

This includes funds for renovations under the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP), Home Adaptations for Seniors' Independence (HASI), Emergency Repair Program (ERP) and the Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP).

Other Government of Manitoba Housing Support Programs:

The Government of Manitoba offers programs to help lower-income households maintain, buy or rent safe, adequate and affordable housing. The province provides annual grants and subsidies through the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation for non-profit and co-operative housing organizations to help develop project proposals for affordable housing for seniors, persons with disabilities and persons with low incomes. It supports the provision of private-sector financing for affordable housing projects developed and delivered by non-profit organizations and also provides grants and loans for home repairs.

The Affordable Housing Initiative complements existing renovation and repair programs including the Residential

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Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP). Manitoba cost-shares RRAP, the Home Adaptations for Seniors' Independence Program, the Emergency Repair Program and the Shelter Enhancement Program with the federal government. The Manitoba government delivers the federal/provincial cost-shared programs as well as the provincially funded Homeowner Emergency Loan Program.

National Homelessness Initiative

Since 1999, the National Homelessness Initiative has been working in partnership with community organizations, the private and voluntary sector, and other levels of government to develop local solutions to homelessness.

The Government of Canada recently announced that the National Homelessness Initiative, scheduled to end in March 2007, will be replaced by an improved strategy, the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, on April 1, 2007.

Homelessness Partnering Strategy

The new Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) will provide \$269.6 million over two years to help communities across Canada combat homelessness more effectively.

The HPS focuses on a housing-first approach to homelessness because the federal government recognizes that housing stability is essential to self-sufficiency and full participation in Canadian society. With its clear goals of improved partnerships, enhanced sustainability and tangible results, the new Strategy will provide concrete, meaningful and lasting results for Canadians in need.