



PRESS RELEASE



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\$19.7 Million Seniors Complex Opens in Gibsons

GIBSONS, British Columbia, March 23, 2007 — Federal, provincial and community funding partners gathered today to celebrate the opening of Good Samaritan Canada's Christenson Village, a \$19.7 million seniors assisted living and complex care development in Gibsons.

"Canada's New Government is committed to providing housing solutions for seniors, so that they can continue to live in their communities, close to family and friends," said Ed Fast, Member of Parliament for Abbotsford, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development. "Seniors in Gibsons now have more access to quality, affordable housing to meet their specific needs."

The Christenson Village campus of care offers housing and support options for seniors whose needs range from hospitality and personal support, to complex care needs requiring 24-hour nursing care. The site includes 60 assisted living apartments and 80 complex care beds, 30 of which are designated for dementia care clients. The assisted living apartments are funded under Independent Living BC, an innovative housing-for-health program that provides seniors with a middle option between home support and residential care.

"The Province, through the Independent Living BC program, is committed to creating affordable housing opportunities for seniors as their care needs change," said West Vancouver - Garibaldi MLA Joan McIntyre. "This campus of care enables seniors on the Sunshine Coast to get the care they need right in their own backyard."

"This project allows Vancouver Coastal Health to provide Sunshine Coast seniors with additional on-site housing and care options," said Brenda Langevin, Director, Acute, Home and Community Care – Powell River and Sunshine Coast. "By offering different levels of care on the same site, seniors are able to age in place receiving the high level of care they deserve."

"Gibsons' living is a choice that shouldn't be predicated on age," said Gibsons' Mayor Barry Janyk. "Today's opening was made possible by partnerships between the various levels of government and an established leader in seniors' housing, Good Samaritan Canada."

"We are proud to partner with BC Housing and Vancouver Coastal Health to offer this unique and exciting campus of care designed to support seniors in a warm and hospitable environment. The opportunity to develop this unique multi-level campus of care for seniors in Gibsons is a trust we take seriously and honour proudly," said Phil Gaudet, President and CEO, Good Samaritan Canada.

Christenson Village is one of six developments in B.C. owned and operated by Good Samaritan Canada, a non-profit care giving organization. The society also manages campuses of care in Penticton, Kelowna, Salmon Arm and Vernon.

The Province of British Columbia, through ILBC, is committed to providing more than 4,000 affordable assisted living apartments for B.C. seniors and persons with disabilities. To date, more than 3,900 have been allocated in communities

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across the province. These units are part of the government's commitment to provide 5,000 net-new residential care beds, assisted living units, and supportive housing units with home support by 2008. The Province's budget for shelters and affordable housing is \$328 million — nearly triple what it was in 2001.

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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Backgrounder

Christenson Village

Good Samaritan Canada

Good Samaritan Canada, a Lutheran Social Service Organization, has over 55 years experience in providing continuing care, assisted living and other specialized health care services and facilities in an innovative and caring environment. It is one of the largest voluntary health care providers in Canada.

The Society was created in 1949 and built its first facility, a long-term care hospital, in 1955. Capital development has since expanded throughout Alberta and British Columbia to numerous communities with the building of continuing care centres, assisted living facilities, seniors' supportive housing facilities, purpose-built homes for persons with development disabilities, primary health and day centres, and a corporate office.

The Society has played a key role in the development of new and innovative programs – ones that are becoming industry standards throughout Canada.

Development Facts

Location: 585 Shaw Road, Gibsons V0N 1V8

Number of new units:

60 independent living apartments funded by the Independent Living BC (ILBC) program.

The facility is planned around a campus of care model, where 30 of the 80 new complex care beds are designated for dementia care clients, who will live in three cottages on the site. The 60 ILBC units are self-contained apartments where tenants receive personal care and hospitality services, such as some meals, housekeeping and laundry services and recreational opportunities.

Tenants will pay 70 per cent of their after-tax income for their homes and the support services.

Partnership Contributions

- The federal government, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, is providing a \$1.86 million capital grant
- The provincial government, through BC Housing, will provide operating subsidies of \$4.9 million over 35 years. BC Housing provided interim construction financing.
- Vancouver Coastal Health is responsible for the operating costs projected at \$5.2 million annually for services provided to tenants.
- The Town of Gibsons provided reductions on various development costs at an approximate value of \$194,000.
- The Good Samaritan Society purchased the land from Vancouver Coastal Health for the amount of \$432,000.

Independent Living BC

In December 2001 the province, through BC Housing, launched the Independent Living BC program in partnership with the federal government, regional health authorities and the private and non-profit sectors.

The Province of British Columbia, through the Independent Living BC program, is committed to providing over 4,000 affordable assisted living apartments for B.C. seniors and persons with disabilities. To date, more than 3,900 units have been allocated in communities across the province.

Seniors are referred to ILBC units by their local health authorities. Case managers work with individual seniors to determine whether independent living is the best option to meet their needs.