



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **Youth Resource Centre in Brantford Celebrates Expansion**

**BRANTFORD, Ontario, May 04, 2007** — St. Leonard's Community Services today celebrated the opening of its expanded 20-bed Youth Resource Centre that will benefit youth in crisis.

"Canada's New Government is committed to supporting housing for at-risk youth," said Gary Goodyear, Member of Parliament for Cambridge, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development. "Through our investment of \$480,000, we are making an important difference in the lives of young people in Brantford who are working towards building a safer, stronger and better future for themselves."

Canada's New Government provided \$480,000 through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) Shelter Enhancement Program to renovate the facility at 331 Dalhousie Street. The Youth Resource Centre receives operating funding from the City of Brantford and the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth, which also contributed funding for furniture.

The Youth Resource Centre provides emergency and short-term housing, support programs and referral services for youth 15 to 19 years of age. Young people can access the tools they need to build independent lives. Services include individual and group counselling, a learning centre and employment search assistance.

"St. Leonard's Community Services is grateful for the financial support provided by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, which created 20 single bed rooms, a new kitchen and dining facilities for Brantford's most vulnerable youth," said Bill Sanderson, Executive Director, St. Leonard's Community Services. "In this new "home like" environment, youth can be safe, receive needed support and make a new start. We commend the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario and the City of Brantford for addressing the problem of youth homelessness in our community."

St. Leonard's Community Services is a charitable agency that promotes innovative programs for youth, families and adults. Their staff and volunteers provide diverse services in the areas of youth and family counselling, housing, justice, addictions and mental health, employment and education.

CMHC's Shelter Enhancement Program offers financial assistance for the repair, rehabilitation and improvement of existing shelters for victims of family violence, as well as the acquisition or construction of new shelters and second stage housing where needed.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has been Canada's national housing agency for more than 60 years. CMHC is committed to helping Canadians access a wide choice of quality, affordable homes, while making vibrant, healthy communities and cities a reality across the country.

**Media contacts:**

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Bill Sanderson  
Executive Director  
St. Leonard's Community Services  
519-759-8830

**For more information, visit:**

[www.st-leonards.com](http://www.st-leonards.com)

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Kathie Howes  
Communications and Marketing  
CMHC  
647-225-3730