



PRESS RELEASE



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\$8 Million Seniors Housing Complex Opens in Powell River

POWELL RIVER, British Columbia, May 22, 2007 — Federal, provincial and community funding partners celebrated the official opening of Kiwanis Garden Manor, a new \$8 million housing development that will provide 40 assisted living units to Powell River seniors.

“Canada’s New Government is committed to making affordable housing more available in British Columbia and across Canada for those who need it most,” said James Lunney, Member of Parliament for Nanaimo – Alberni, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development. “With the opening of this project, seniors in Powell River will now have access to quality, affordable housing and the services they need to meet their specific needs, while remaining close to their families and friends.”

Kiwanis Garden Manor was developed under the Independent Living BC program and, provides a middle option for seniors who benefit from some assistance but do not want or need 24-hour residential care. These 40 new assisted living suites in Powell River will provide affordable alternatives for low- to moderate-income seniors.

“These homes will allow seniors who have helped build the Sunshine Coast, enjoy their retirement in Powell River.” said Ralph Sultan, MLA for West Vancouver — Capilano.” The balance of independence and assistance that these programs provide are helping seniors and communities all over B.C.”

“Kiwanis Garden Manor is a great addition to Powell River — a Cultural Capital of Canada and the Pearl on the Sunshine Coast,” said City of Powell River Mayor Stewart Alsgard. “Our seniors want to remain in the community and now we can provide that option.”

Vancouver Coastal Health is providing ongoing funding for the personal care services and hospitality services to ensure that tenants have access to the healthcare services they need to remain independent. In addition to their own private units, assisted living residents receive hospitality and personal care services, such as meals, housekeeping and laundry services, recreational opportunities, assistance with medications, and other care needs, including a 24-hour response system.

“The goal of assisted living is to promote greater independence and support long-term care needs,” said Brenda Langevin, Director, Vancouver Coastal Health. “VCH is committed to improving access to care throughout our service area, and this new development increases the options for seniors on the Sunshine Coast.”

Kiwanis Garden Manor is owned and operated by the Powell River Kiwanis Housing Society. The Kiwanis Club also manages Kiwanis Village, a 42-unit subsidized independent seniors’ housing development that is connected to the new assisted living building by a walkway.

“The opening of Kiwanis Garden Manor marks the beginning of greater access to affordable seniors housing in our community,” said Kiwanis Housing Society President Al Lacourciere. “Assisted living meets a long standing need for

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many of our Powell River seniors and we are so gratified to see this become a reality.”

These new units are part of the British Columbia Government’s commitment to provide 5,000 net-new residential care beds, assisted living units, and supportive housing with home support units by the end of 2008. To date, 8,494 new and replacement beds and units have been built, including 3,196 net-new.

The Province of British Columbia 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 across the province. 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 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

Kiwanis Garden Manor

Kiwanis Garden Manor, at 4923 Kiwanis Avenue in Powell River, provides 40 assisted living suites for seniors. The development opened in November 2006.

The assisted living units are funded under the Independent Living BC program. Tenants pay 70 per cent of their after-tax income for their units and receive hospitality and personal care services, such as meals, housekeeping and laundry, recreational programs, assistance with medications and a 24-hour response system.

The three-storey building has one-bedroom suites. A collection of artwork depicting local landmarks, history and wildlife has been generously donated by individuals in the community and is displayed in the common areas of Kiwanis Garden Manor.

Partners and Funding

Capital cost of this project is \$8 million.

- The federal government, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, is providing a \$2 million capital grant.
- The provincial government provided a one-time grant of \$5,430,006.

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- Vancouver Coastal Health will provide annual funding of \$636,000 to subsidize the hospitality and personal care services to Independent Living BC tenants.
- The City of Powell River provided reductions on various development costs. The value of the contribution is approximately \$210,000.
- The Powell River Kiwanis Housing Society provided \$58,000 towards the land and \$240,000 in cash.
- Powell River Regional Hospital District provided \$59,600 for the remainder of the land.
- The Society also recently received a \$20,000 commitment from the Powell River Health-Care Auxiliary to cover the cost of additional specialized services.
- Powell River community organizations also contributed the following donations:
 - ◆ Powell River Credit Union \$3,000
 - ◆ Lions Club of Powell River \$2,500
 - ◆ Royal Canadian Legion #164 \$1,000
 - ◆ Catalyst Paper Corporation \$1,000

Powell River Kiwanis Housing Society

The Kiwanis Club of Powell River was established in 1960 to serve the Powell River community. The Kiwanis Club noticed that there was a need for seniors' housing and in 1975 incorporated the Kiwanis Village Society, which opened Kiwanis Village in 1978 with 43-units of independent seniors' housing. The Kiwanis Club incorporated the Powell River Kiwanis Housing Society in 2002 to build and operate Kiwanis Garden Manor Assisted Living. The Housing Society has strong links with the community and is actively involved in ongoing fundraising to enhance services for the tenants of the 40 new units of assisted living.