



PRESS RELEASE



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New Affordable Housing Opens for Vancouver Seniors

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, May 23, 2007 — A new \$17.2 million housing development officially opened in the Champlain Heights area of Vancouver, providing 57 subsidized, assisted living, apartments for seniors.

“Housing projects like Southview Heights will help ensure that our seniors continue to live active and independent lives,” said James Moore, Member of Parliament for Port Moody — Westwood — Port Coquitlam and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver – Whistler Olympics, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development. “Canada’s New Government is committed to supporting housing solutions for seniors so that they can continue to live in their communities, close to their family and friends, enjoying a better quality of life.”

The units at The Salvation Army Southview Heights are funded under Independent Living BC, an innovative housing-for-health program for seniors. Assisted living homes are self-contained apartments with a 24-hour response system. Residents receive personal care services, such as meals, assistance with medications, housekeeping, and laundry services as well as recreational opportunities.

“These new assisted living apartments allow seniors to maintain their independence, with easy access to the personal and medical services when they need them,” said Vancouver – Fraserview MLA Wally Oppal. “Partnerships like Southview Heights provide seniors with quality support programs, personal privacy and a safe, healthy and affordable lifestyle.”

In addition to funding support services in the assisted living development, Vancouver Coastal Health is providing and operating an ambulatory care clinic within the complex to provide residents and others in the neighbourhood with access to nursing and health services.

“While assisted living is an important option for seniors that helps them to stay in their communities and keep their independence longer, the ambulatory care clinic will provide the supports they need on their doorstep,” said Ida Goodreau, President and Chief Executive Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health. “The ambulatory clinic within Southview Heights will allow us to provide ongoing nursing care to residents in the neighbourhood and assisted living complex, as well as education and self-management support groups for seniors living with chronic diseases.”

“Providing support for affordable housing is a priority for the City of Vancouver,” said Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan. “Many seniors live on a fixed income, and Southview Heights helps fill a need for affordable, secure housing.”

The Salvation Army first opened Southview Heights as a residential care facility on the site in 1975. The operation has been expanded to provide assisted living for seniors not requiring full-time residential care in response to demand for more independent housing options for seniors.

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“The Salvation Army is pleased to expand its available services to include assisted living, helping seniors live independently in their own homes for as long as possible,” said Captain John Murray, The Salvation Army, British Columbia Division. “Secure housing and social inclusion are recognized as factors in determining personal health, and our vision is for Southview Heights to provide a sense of community as well as support services to its residents.”

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 provincial government 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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[See related speech](#)

Backgrounder

Southview Heights

The Salvation Army Southview Heights, at 7252 Kerr Street in Vancouver, is a 57-unit subsidized assisted living apartment building for seniors. The facility also has an Ambulatory Care Clinic where residents can receive medical services on an outpatient basis.

Construction was completed in early March and the first residents began moving in April 16.

Tenants receive two meals a day, weekly housekeeping and linen services, 24-hour response, personal care services and social and recreational opportunities. Tenants pay 70 per cent of their after-tax income for their units.

The three-storey wood-frame apartment building contains 560-square-foot, one-bedroom suites and is connected to common areas that include the kitchen area, dining room, and recreational spaces. Each suite includes a kitchenette, balcony or patio, separate bedroom and personal bathroom.

Southview Heights is close to shopping, amenities and public transit.

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Partners and Funding:

Capital cost of this project was \$17.2 million.

- The federal government, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), provided a \$1.4 million capital grant under the Canada – BC Affordable Housing Program Agreement.
- The provincial government will provide a housing subsidy of \$7.8 million over 35 years, and provided a one-time grant of \$3.33 million.
- Vancouver Coastal Health will provide funding for personal care up to approximately \$840,000 annually, as well as \$16,500 annually for the lease of the Ambulatory Care Clinic.
- The City of Vancouver provided reductions on various development costs valued at approximately \$290,000.
- The Salvation Army provided the land valued at \$3.4 million, and a capital contribution of \$800,000.

The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is the largest non-governmental social service agency in the province. It has vast experience in social service programs including housing and shelter. The B.C. division's operating budget is \$75 million.

The Salvation Army has been a vital part of Vancouver since the city's birth. The first ministry opened on the edge of Chinatown in 1887. In 1950, the B.C. headquarters was opened in downtown Vancouver. Today, the Army estimates almost one-third of British Columbians have been touched by its work in some way.