



PRESS RELEASE



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\$2 Million Housing for Seniors Opens in Nakusp

NAKUSP, British Columbia, May 24, 2007 — Seniors in the Interior now have access to more housing and health options after today's official opening of Halcyon House, a newly-converted, \$2 million assisted living development in Nakusp.

Halcyon House is the first housing development of its kind to open in Nakusp, with 10 new units of assisted living for seniors. These units are funded under Independent Living BC, a housing for health program in which the federal and provincial governments, the health authorities and non-profit societies partner together to provide more options for seniors in British Columbia.

"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 Jim Abbott, Member of Parliament for Kootenay – Columbia and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development. "Seniors in Nakusp now have more access to quality, affordable housing to meet their specific needs."

The 23-year-old Halcyon House has been converted into an assisted living development to offer more choices for seniors with health needs in the community.

"The Province is creating partnerships that build homes and support services to improve the lives of seniors," said Rich Coleman, Minister responsible for Housing. "The conversion of Halcyon House means that seniors will be able to maintain their independent lifestyles in Nakusp with the assistance and support they need."

The units are self-contained apartments with a 24-hour response system. Residents receive personal care services, such as recreational opportunities and assistance with medications, housekeeping, meals, and laundry services. The fire and life-safety systems have also been upgraded for the entire building including installation of sprinklers throughout and an updated fire alarm system.

The Province provides funding to ensure that the housing remains affordable. Interior Health funds the personal care and hospitality services for the residents.

"Nakusp seniors now have more options available in their community to support their long-term needs," said Alan Dolman, Board Chair for Interior Health. "Interior Health is committed to improving access to care throughout our service area, and this new converted development increases the options for seniors in the Interior."

"The conversion of Halcyon House is an important community addition that will meet the needs of an increasing seniors' population," said Laurie Page, Chair, Halcyon Assisted Living Society. "An upgrade was needed to ensure that our residents and our community has better access to appropriate housing and health options as they age."

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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. 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.

Canada's New Government, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), will contribute more than \$130 million by 2010 towards affordable housing in this province. The provincial government provides 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

Halcyon House

Halcyon House is located at 87 – 3rd Avenue West and 715 West Broadway Street in Nakusp. It provides 10 assisted living apartments for seniors. The development opened in March 2007.

The new assisted living suites are funded through the Independent Living BC program. The assisted living units are all studio suites, two of which are wheelchair accessible. Eligible residents pay 70 per cent of their after-tax income for their units and services, which include meals, weekly housekeeping and linen services, 24-hour response, personal care services, and social and recreational opportunities.

The original Halcyon House was built to care for residents with intermediate-care needs 23 year years ago.

Partners and Funding:

Capital cost of this project is approximately \$2 million.

Partners and Funding:

- The federal government, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, is providing a \$200,000 capital grant for eight of the 10 units.
- The provincial government provided a capital grant of \$1,255,925 for the 10 assisted living units.
- Interior Health is funding the personal care services for all 10 units \$277,954.

Halcyon Assisted Living Society

The Society was formed in 2004 for the exclusive purpose of re-developing and operating the Halcyon House assisted living program. The society endeavours to help people age successfully in the community, through the core principles of Assisted Living — choice, privacy, independence, individuality, dignity and respect.