



PRESS RELEASE



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Assisted Living Apartments Open in Barriere

BARRIERE, British Columbia, May 29, 2007 — Seniors in Barriere now have access to assisted living with the opening of a new, 10-unit, \$3.7 million addition to the Yellowhead Pioneer Lodge Residence.

“With the opening of Yellowhead Pioneer Lodge Residence, seniors in Barriere will have access to safe and supportive housing,” said Betty Hinton, MP for Kamloops — Thompson — Cariboo and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Veterans Affairs, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development. “Canada's New Government is proud to be a partner in projects like this one, because we are committed to providing housing solutions for seniors, so that they can continue to live in their communities with dignity and independence. I know my longtime friend Jack Lapin was very proud to work with me to promote this project and achieve today's goal.”

The assisted living units provide affordable housing and care for seniors who wish to maintain their independence, but require some support. The units are funded under the Independent Living BC program.

“Assisted living gives seniors the ability to live independently with dignity and easy access to the care they need,” said Kevin Krueger, MLA for Kamloops – North Thompson. “We want our seniors to continue living in the communities they call home.”

Residents receive assistance with medication, meals, housekeeping, laundry service and recreational opportunities. The residence is managed by the Yellowhead Pioneer Residence Society (YPRS), with Interior Health providing funding for personal care and some hospitality services.

“Many seniors have spent a large part of their lives in this area,” said Susan Rolph, Manager Client Support Services for the Thompson Cariboo Shuswap Health Service Area of Interior Health. “As a bridge between home care and residential care, assisted living enhances their overall health.”

“The elderly population of Barriere is increasing as a result of our locals aging and the area attracting more and more retired people,” said YPRS president Tim Hockey. “The community supports this project and our goal — of providing seniors the choice to stay in the community as they age.”

The new development is attached to 12 units of existing seniors' apartments that have been managed by the Yellowhead Pioneer Residence Society since 1978.

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, 8,102 new and replacement beds and units have been built, including 2,984 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

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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 \$130 million by 2008 towards affordable housing in B.C. The provincial government provides a minimum of \$34 million annually to subsidize the cost of units built under the Canada – British Columbia 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

Yellowhead Pioneer Lodge Addition

Yellowhead Pioneer Lodge Residence, at 4557 Barriere Town Road, will provide 10 new one-bedroom assisted living units for seniors funded under the Independent Living BC program. The new assisted living units have been added to 12 units of existing independent seniors' apartments. The development has been managed by the Yellowhead Pioneer Residence Society since 1978.

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.

Partners and Funding

Capital cost of this project is \$3,715,921.

- The federal government, through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, provided a \$750,000 grant.
- The provincial government provided a one-time grant of \$2,617,921.
- The Province also provided a one-time capital grant of \$250,000 and an approximate \$101,000 hospitality subsidy over 35 years.
- Interior Health provided a grant of \$26,000 for a therapeutic tub room and \$309,697 annually in personal care and support service subsidies.

Yellowhead Pioneer Residence Society

Yellowhead Pioneer Residence Society was formed in 1976 to create affordable housing for the pioneers along the Yellowhead Route north of Kamloops. It serves Barriere and area by providing quality and affordable housing and services to help seniors stay in the community.