



PRESS RELEASE



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Accessible and Affordable Seniors Housing Opens in Ste. Anne

STE. ANNE, Manitoba, June 08, 2007 — Manitobans in the Ste. Anne area have been able to move into a new 28 unit affordable housing project as a result of more than \$1.4 million in funding from the Canada – Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI).

“Canada’s New Government recognizes the importance of affordable housing,” said the Honourable Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development. “We are pleased to be working with our partners to extend a helping hand to those lower income individuals and persons with special needs here in Ste. Anne.”

“Good quality, safe and affordable housing supports seniors in maintaining independent lifestyles in their communities,” said Family Services and Housing Minister Gord Mackintosh. “We are committed to affordable housing for all Manitobans and are pleased to work with our community partners to realize the grand opening of Place Ste. Anne.”

Located at 25 Demers Street, the initiative was led by the Ste. Anne Knights of Columbus Council #4819. The Town of Ste. Anne also supported the project by contributing land valued at \$115,000. The balance of funding will come from equity contribution by the St. Anne Knights of Columbus and a private mortgage. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$3.23 million.

The new apartment building includes 26 one-bedroom units and two, two-bedroom apartments. Up to 14 of the new apartments are designated for low-income households and will also receive funding from the AHI Rent Supplement program so that rents are geared to income. Up to four units will be made available to people living with mental illness. Rents for the new apartments are considered affordable as they will be at median market rent levels for rural Manitoba.

“With the vision and philanthropy of the Knights of Columbus, major funding from the Canada – Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative, project management from Acorn Development Consultants, support from the Town and Rural Municipality and countless volunteer hours, we are now able to provide quality, affordable housing to adults in Ste. Anne, Manitoba,” said Robert Sarrasin, President of the Board of Directors of Place Ste. Anne.

The governments of Canada and Manitoba will each contribute \$36.9 million to the Affordable Housing Initiative in Manitoba, demonstrating a commitment to increasing the supply of affordable housing in Manitoba. It is anticipated that contributions from municipalities, the private and voluntary sectors, co-operatives and charities will significantly increase the size of this initiative in Manitoba.

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[See related speech](#)

Backgrounder

Canada – Manitoba Affordable Housing Agreement

First Phase:

The governments of Canada and Manitoba signed the Affordable Housing Initiative in 2002. The first phase provided federal funding of \$25.39 million with matching contributions of \$25.39 million from the Province of Manitoba and community-based housing partners. This agreement provided funding for a new rental housing-supply program, a rehabilitation/conversion program, a new homebuyer down-payment program and a home ownership-supply program.

Second Phase:

The second phase increased the total current investment commitments by \$23.08 million by 2010. This is equally shared by Canada and Manitoba for:

- a new rental housing-supply program to increase the amount of new rental affordable housing for low-income renters;
- a rehabilitation/conversion housing program to rehabilitate severely deteriorated properties into rental or ownership affordable housing for low-income households;
- a homebuyer down-payment assistance program to help low-income renters become first-time homebuyers of new or recently renovated affordable housing developed under Affordable Housing programs and;
- a new homeownership supply program to increase homeownership by encouraging construction of new housing in targeted urban revitalization and remote areas.

As well, federal assistance is increased to 50 per cent of capital costs to a maximum of \$75,000 per unit. The units are expected to remain affordable and be occupied by low-income households for a minimum of 10 years. Phase II is targeted to people on or eligible to be on a social-housing waiting list.

Other Government of Canada Housing Support in Manitoba:

In 2005/2006, the Government of Canada spent approximately \$123 million in Manitoba primarily in support of some 41,350 lower-income households across the province as part of the federal contribution to social housing programs.

Recently, it announced \$256 million for the two-year extension of CMHC's renovation programs. For renovation programs, in Manitoba, about \$5.8 million has been allocated for off-reserve delivery in 2007/08.

This will improve the quality of housing for some 38,000 low-income Canadians. These investments will provide concrete, meaningful and lasting results for Canadians who need safe and adequate housing.

This includes funds for renovations under the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP), Home Adaptations for Seniors' Independence (HASI), Emergency Repair Program (ERP) and the Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP).

The 2006 Federal Budget contains a one-time investment of \$1.4 billion towards helping Canadians find safe, adequate and affordable housing in all provinces and territories.

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The funding will be made available through a flexible approach involving third party trusts:

- An Affordable Housing Trust, in the amount of \$800 million over three years, to help address short-term pressures with regard to the supply of affordable housing;
- An Off-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Trust, in the amount of \$300 million over three years, to help provinces address housing needs for Aboriginal Canadians living off-reserve; and,
- A Northern Housing Trust, in the amount of \$300 million over three years, to help territories address short-term pressures with regard to affordable housing to the North.

Manitoba's share of the funding is \$61.50 million from the first two trusts.

Other Government of Manitoba Housing Support Programs:

The Government of Manitoba offers programs to help lower-income households maintain, buy or rent safe, adequate and affordable housing. The province provides annual grants and subsidies through the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation for non-profit and co-operative housing organizations to help develop project proposals for affordable housing for seniors, persons with disabilities and persons with low incomes. It supports the provision of private-sector financing for affordable housing projects developed and delivered by non-profit organizations and also provides grants and loans for home repairs.

The Affordable Housing Initiative complements existing renovation and repair programs including the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP). Manitoba cost-shares RRAP, the Home Adaptations for Seniors' Independence Program, the Emergency Repair Program and the Shelter Enhancement Program with the federal government. The Manitoba government delivers the federal/provincial cost-shared programs as well as the provincially funded Homeowner Emergency Loan Program.