



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **Opening of 15 New Affordable Housing Units in the Borough of Ville-Marie, in Montréal**

**MONTRÉAL, Quebec, June 26, 2007** — Lower-income families now have more affordable housing options thanks to the construction of the 15 units in the second phase of the Coopérative d'habitation Chung Hua, in the borough of Ville-Marie, in Montréal.

This announcement was made today, on the occasion of the opening of this building, by Honourable Michael M. Fortier, Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister responsible for Montréal, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, by Jacques Chagnon, MNA for Westmount – Saint-Louis, on behalf of Nathalie Normandeau, Deputy Premier and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Regions, and by Cosmo Maciocia, City of Montréal Executive Committee member responsible for housing. In addition to Jacques Chagnon, Man Wai Yee, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Coopérative d'habitation Chung Hua, attended the ceremony, as did tenants and community partners.

“Canada’s New Government is committed to making affordable housing more available in Montréal and across Canada for those who need it most,” said Minister Fortier. “Seniors in downtown Montréal now have greater access to quality, affordable housing that meets their specific needs and allows them to live close to family and friends.”

“The Government of Quebec is committed to making more affordable housing units available to the overall low-income population. That’s why I am proud of the financial support that the government provided to this housing project that will allow families from Montréal’s Chinese community to enjoy a pleasant living environment that will be conducive to their growth,” said Jacques Chagnon.

“The members of the Coopérative d'habitation Chung Hua showed initiative in developing a second phase of 15 new social and community housing units allowing low-income households to live in Montréal’s Chinatown. They are therefore contributing to the socio-economic mix in the sector and helping to strengthen the presence of Montréal’s Chinese community,” said Cosmo Maciocia.

Borough of Ville-Marie Mayor Benoît Labonté had this to say about the development of these units: “Social cohesion, in the borough of Ville-Marie, requires that we encourage all forms of diversity. For housing in particular, this diversity is of utmost importance.”

The construction of Phase II of the Coopérative d'habitation Chung Hua, which required investments of more than \$2 million, was completed thanks to the participation of public and community partners. Just over \$1.2 million was provided under affordable housing agreements signed between Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ).

CMHC and the SHQ both provided just over \$490,000. The City of Montréal, for its part, contributed a sum of more than \$245,000 under its agglomeration jurisdiction. This amount is repaid by the Montréal Metropolitan Community

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(MMC) out of the social housing fund to which the 82 municipalities on its territory contribute, including the City of Montréal, which provides almost half of the funding.

As well, an amount of \$116,000 in financial assistance was granted under the *Renovation Québec* program. This sum was provided in equal shares by the SHQ and the City of Montréal, under its agglomeration jurisdiction. The City funded close to 80 per cent of the municipal share, while the other 15 municipalities on the Island of Montréal provided the rest. The balance of the investment is being assumed by the housing cooperative through a mortgage loan secured by the SHQ.

The development of this project is part of the Government of Quebec's initiative to achieve its objective of producing 22,000 new social, community and private housing units for low- and moderate-income households, by 2009.

The Government of Quebec housing initiative is notably supported by federal funds made available under affordable housing agreements.

The federal government and the Government of Quebec signed two agreements to increase the supply of affordable housing in Quebec. These agreements provide for a total contribution of \$473 million, with \$236.5 million from the federal government and an equivalent sum on the part of the Quebec government and the municipalities participating in the *Affordable Housing Québec* and *AccèsLogis Québec* programs.

Phase II of the Coopérative d'habitation Chung Hua is a project that is part of the *Solidarité 5000 logements* operation that increased the number of affordable housing units for low-income households.

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