



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **New Affordable Housing Opens in St. Thomas**

**ST. THOMAS, Ontario, January 08, 2008** — The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the City of St. Thomas held a ribbon-cutting ceremony today to mark the official opening of the Steele Street Apartments, an affordable housing project that provides rental units for lower-income families and individuals under the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

Joe Preston, Member of Parliament for Elgin – Middlesex – London, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development; Steve Peters, Member of Provincial Parliament for Elgin – Middlesex – London, on behalf of the Province of Ontario; and Mayor Cliff Barwick and Alderman Lori Baldwin-Sands attended the ceremony.

“Our government is committed to making affordable housing available in Ontario and across Canada for those who need it most,” said MP Preston. “The creation of these units will allow lower-income families and individuals in St. Thomas to live in safe, quality housing at an affordable cost, helping them to start a new page in their lives.”

“These additional spaces represent hope and new beginnings for twelve families in our community,” said Peters. “I am pleased that the federal and provincial governments worked together to provide this funding.”

The \$1.2 million project, including \$828,000 from the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program, will provide 12 apartments at 78 Steele Street in the City of St. Thomas. The project is sponsored by Walter Ostojic & Sons Limited.

Federal and provincial funding was complemented by \$179,478 in municipal financial incentives.

"The City of St. Thomas is very grateful to the federal and provincial governments for providing financial assistance under the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program," said Mayor Cliff Barwick. "This new apartment building will provide much-needed affordable housing for twelve families in the community."

The new Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program Agreement comprises a commitment of \$301 million from each of the two senior levels of government. In total, the federal, provincial and municipal governments will invest at least \$734 million in the program, which will provide affordable housing for 20,000 households in Ontario.

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