



PRESS RELEASE



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Construction to Begin on New Affordable Housing Complex in Calgary

CALGARY, Alberta, June 26, 2008 — Individuals, families and children in Calgary are one step closer to more affordable housing following a sod-turning ceremony in the community of Hillhurst – Sunnyside.

The Brenda Strafford Foundation Affordable Housing Initiative will feature 83 two-bedroom apartments of which 33 units are targeted to support women and families leaving domestic violence. The Calgary Housing Company currently provides 24 units of housing to Foundation clients. When the new project is complete, those units will be returned to Calgary's affordable housing inventory.

“The Government of Canada is committed to making affordable housing available in Alberta and across Canada for those who need it most,” said Deepak Obhrai, Member of Parliament for Calgary East, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development. “The creation of these units here in Calgary will provide women and their children as well families and individuals on low-incomes access to safe affordable and quality housing, helping them to build a stronger future.”

“This important affordable housing initiative is supportive and will provide a new beginning for women and their families who have been victims of domestic violence,” said Yvonne Fritz, Minister of Alberta Housing and Urban Affairs. “The Alberta government is pleased to be a partner in bringing affordable housing to these individuals as well as other Calgary families in need.”

The project will also create 50 units of new affordable housing for other lower income households in Calgary. Amenities will include a play area for children, private offices for counsellors and support staff, as well as space for group meetings.

“This affordable housing project has been at the top of the Foundation's list for several years, and we are delighted to see the culmination of our efforts has finally brought fruition to the start of construction,” said Dr. Barrie I. Strafford.

The Brenda Strafford Foundation Affordable Housing Initiative is close to parks, restaurants and shopping. Representatives of the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta, the City of Calgary and the Brenda Strafford Foundation participated in the sod turning ceremony. Construction on the project is expected to start in July.

Funding for the project includes \$7.9 million in capital funding from the federal and provincial governments under the Canada – Alberta Affordable Housing Partnership Initiative, and a land donation from the Brenda Strafford Foundation valued at \$2.3 million.

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