



PRESS RELEASE



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Construction Set to Begin on New Affordable Housing in Windsor

WINDSOR, Ontario, July 10, 2009 — The Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario and the City of Windsor today announced \$1.9 million to fund six construction-ready projects.

The funding was made available as a result of a \$1.2 billion joint investment under the amended Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program Agreement, which includes funding through *Canada's Economic Action Plan* and by the Government of Ontario. The federal and provincial governments are contributing equally to this overall investment.

Today's announcement recognized the successful applications by Community Living Windsor and Community Living Essex County, to create 24 units of affordable housing for low-income individuals with disabilities.

Jeff Watson, Member of Parliament for Essex, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC); Bruce Crozier, Member of Provincial Parliament for Essex, on behalf of the Honourable Jim Watson, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Eddie Francis, Mayor of Windsor; along with Nelson Santos, Essex County Warden, made the announcement today.

"This Government is working hard to support Canadians during these challenging economic times and we are moving aggressively to ensure *Canada's Economic Action Plan* is implemented rapidly," said MP Watson. "With these investments in Ontario, we are making an important difference in the lives of some of our community's most vulnerable citizens. Low-income seniors, families and persons with disabilities will soon have access to suitable, affordable housing."

"New housing initiatives add significant support to the McGuinty government's Poverty Reduction Strategy," said MPP Crozier. "This first wave of funding will lead to construction by September and we will continue to work with our municipal partners to ensure more units are built during the life of this program."

"We are very pleased to be part of this significant contribution in support of affordable housing in our community. We are pleased to partner with our local Community Living Associations to help people with developmental challenges live in local communities," said Mayor Francis "Shelter is a fundamental human need and the availability of affordable housing is at the heart of a community's strength and resiliency. This funding is an important investment in the people and the future of our community for generations to come."

"These investments in affordable housing represent a significant step forward in helping our region meet the goals of our poverty reduction strategy for Windsor and Essex County," said Warden Santos. "It is important to recognize that this project is being achieved only because of the tremendous spirit of partnership with our local Community Living Associations and each level of government. Together, this project provides an important element of inclusion for persons of all abilities."

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Ontario is moving quickly to implement this new funding, which increases the number of “quick start” projects to 33 totalling \$54.7 million and which will improve access to affordable housing for low-income families, seniors and persons with disabilities. It will also create jobs and strengthen local economies. To find out more about affordable housing in Ontario, visit www.mah.gov.on.ca.

Last fall, the Government of Canada committed more than \$1.9 billion over the next five years to improve and build new affordable housing and to help the homeless. *Canada's Economic Action Plan* builds on this with an additional one-time investment of more than \$2 billion over two years in new and existing social housing and lending of up to another \$2 billion to municipalities for housing-related infrastructure.

To find out more about how the Government of Canada and CMHC are working to build stronger homes and communities for all Canadians, call CMHC at 1-800-668-2642 or visit www.cmhc.ca/housingactionplan. For more information on *Canada's Economic Action Plan*, call 1-800-O Canada or visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

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