

Edmonton, October 24, 2003

Canada

Canada - Alberta Affordable Housing Program

Fort McMurray receives government funding for new affordable housing project

A 130-unit affordable housing complex in Fort McMurray will be built using a \$6.5 million grant to be provided to the Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation (WBHDC) under the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program.

“Providing funds to build more affordable housing in communities facing an acute housing shortage is a priority for the Government of Canada,” said the Honourable Steven Mahoney, Secretary of State responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). “Our partnership with the Province of Alberta and other partners helps us to build stronger communities, not only in Fort McMurray, but across Alberta.”

“These new affordable rental units will provide many working families in Fort McMurray with a real opportunity to build their savings, moving them one step closer to home ownership,” said Honourable Stan Woloshyn, Minister of Seniors with responsibility for housing. “With these new units coming onstream next year, we will also be able to reduce the Community Housing waiting list.”

The Prospect View project calls for two low-rise apartment complexes that will include 18 one-bedroom, 84 two-bedroom and eight three-bedroom units as well as 20 three-bedroom townhouses. The total project cost is expected to be approximately \$14.9 million.

The Affordable Housing Partnership Initiative grant is comprised of matching contributions of \$3.25 million from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and Alberta Seniors. The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and WBHDC contributed to provide the services for the land at a combined value of \$715,000. The remaining \$7.7 million is to be financed by the Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation. In addition, the municipality provided upfront services to the site at a value of \$1.6 million. See the attached backgrounder for further project details

The Affordable Housing Partnership Initiative was announced as part of the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program Agreement signed in June 2002 between the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta. The agreement provides for \$67.12 million in federal contributions to be matched by the province to help increase the supply of low-cost housing in high growth communities.

In 2002-03, \$33 million in government and leveraged funding launched eight projects and the construction of over 420 affordable housing units in Calgary, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Red Deer and Grande Prairie as well as northern remote communities, including the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

While the project proposals for 2003-04 are currently under review, provincial and federal funding of the initiative will total \$35 million for this fiscal year. This amount will be further enhanced through leveraged contributions from other partners including municipalities, local community housing authorities, non-profit organizations and private sector companies.

Program funding is provided in the form of capital grants and is provided on a project-by-project basis. For more details, visit the Alberta Seniors website at www.seniors.gov.ab.ca.

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For more information, contact:

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Applicant:	Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation
Project Location:	Fort McMurray, Alberta
Target Clients:	Low and moderate income working families, individuals and seniors
Number of Units	18 x one-bedroom 84 x two-bedroom 8 x three-bedroom 20 x three-bedroom townhouses
Unit type	Two low-rise apartment buildings and 20 townhouses
Proposed Rents:	\$468 / month One-bedroom \$692 / month Two-bedroom \$837 / month Three-bedroom \$930 / month Three-bedroom townhouses
AHPI Grant:	\$3.25 million (Federal) \$3.25 million (Provincial)
Municipal contributions:	\$715,000 (Land – servicing costs) \$1,650,000 (Upfront servicing costs to site)
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