

News Release

Edmonton, March 28, 2003

First projects announced under Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program Agreement

Over 420 new affordable housing units to be developed

Over 420 new affordable housing units will be developed in Alberta using the recently announced \$17 million in federal and provincial funding under the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program Agreement. Eight projects will be funded under two initiatives, the Affordable Housing Partnership Initiative (AHPI) and the Sustainable Remote Housing Initiative (SRHI).

“The development of these units shows the deep commitments of the Governments of Canada and Alberta to affordable housing for the people of this province,” said Anne McLellan, Minister of Health and M.P. for Edmonton West, on behalf of David Collette, Minister of Transport and Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). “Affordable housing is a priority across Canada. The funding of these units demonstrates the federal commitment to strong and safe communities for Canadians in the highest need areas of this country.”

“The projects will be developed in the high-growth, high-need communities of Calgary, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Red Deer and Grande Prairie as well as northern remote communities including the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo,” said Stan Woloshyn, Minister of Alberta Seniors, with responsibility for housing. “I am extremely pleased with the quality of the projects brought forward and the willingness of their proponents to quickly move forward with their development.”

These projects will include the development of new affordable housing units. Program assistance is in form of capital grants to ensure affordable monthly rents for lower income individuals and families. See attached backgrounder for project details.

Since the signing of the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program Agreement last June, Alberta Seniors has been receiving proposals for the development of affordable housing, particularly from high-growth, high-need communities. With announcement of the \$17 million in February, these projects were reviewed based on the program criteria which includes greatest demonstrated need, financial sustainability, project design and location.

The \$17 million represents provincial and federal contributions for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2003. It will leverage an additional \$16 million from municipalities, non-profits, community organizations and the private sector for a total of \$33 million. Provincial funding for future years will be announced as part of the provincial budget.

The Affordable Housing Program Agreement, signed in June 2002, provided a \$67.12 million federal contribution to be matched by the province to help increase the supply of low-cost housing in high growth communities. Of the total, \$8.74 million will be targeted towards northern remote communities.

In the 2003 federal budget, the government announced it is increasing investments in housing by \$704 million for the creation of more affordable housing and renovation assistance.

The \$320 million in additional funds for affordable housing will build on the Government's \$680 million Affordable Housing Initiative, announced in 2001. This will bring the total federal investment in the Affordable Housing Initiative to \$1 billion by the end of 2007-08.

Also, as part of the budget, CMHC's existing renovation programs, which help low-income Canadians, will be extended by \$384 million over three years and will build on the success of those programs to date.

Funding for the projects is allocated on a project-by-project basis. For more details, visit the Alberta Seniors website at www.seniors.gov.ab.ca.

For more information, contact:

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Backgrounder

Listing of Projects Receiving Grant Funding

Affordable Housing Partnership Initiative (AHPI)

Calgary	<p>City of Calgary - Manchester School Site 130 affordable housing units, 70 hard-to-house units Proposed rents: \$250 - \$450 AHPI Grant: \$ 9,150,000 Project Contacts: Sharon Purvis (403) 268-1445</p>
Edmonton	<p>Peter and Tony Pino 58 affordable housing units Proposed rents: \$300 - \$560 AHPI Grant: \$ 2,900,000 Project Contacts: Peter / Tony Pino (780) 422-0488</p> <p>Edmonton Inner City Housing Society 8 three bedroom affordable housing units Proposed rents: \$ 530 AHPI Grant: \$ 400,000 Project Contacts: Cameron McDonald (780) 423-1339</p>
Fort McMurray	<p>Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation 29 affordable housing units Proposed rents: \$330 - \$730 AHPI Grant: \$ 875,000 Project Contact: Gilles Huizinga (780) 743-7867</p> <p>Fort McMurray Affordable Housing Society 40 three bedroom affordable housing units Proposed rents: \$ 825 AHPI Grant: \$ 1,000,000 Project Contact: Greg Walsh (780) 743-1369</p>
Grand Prairie	<p>Canadian Mental Health Association – Willow Place 38 affordable housing units, 20 homeless units Proposed rents: \$350 AHPI Grant: \$ 950,000 Project Contact: Helma Fletcher (780) 539-6660</p>
Red Deer	<p>P & S Investments – Riverside Meadows 39 affordable housing units Proposed rents: \$325 - \$550 AHPI Grant: \$ 975,000 Project Contact: Patricia Turnbull (403) 342-2266</p>

Sustainable Remote Housing Initiative (SRHI)

Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation

5 manufactured homes in Conklin and 5 manufactured homes in Janvier

SRHI Grant: **\$ 750,000**

Project Contact: Gilles Huizinga (780) 743-7867