

## News Release

*Edmonton, January 8, 2004*

### **Fort McMurray receives government funding for new affordable housing project**

The Salvation Army—START Program will receive \$125,000 under the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program to complete a five-bedroom group home for disabled individuals with special needs. The announcement was made today by the Honourable Anne McLellan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety, on behalf of the Honourable Andy Scott, Minister of State (Infrastructure) and Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the Honourable Stan Woloshyn, Minister of Alberta Seniors with responsibility for housing.

“The Government of Canada is pleased to be partnering with both the Province of Alberta and the Salvation Army to address housing needs in Fort McMurray,” said Deputy Prime Minister McLellan. “Finding solutions to housing needs requires the support of the community and this project clearly demonstrates how that can be done successfully.”

“The group home will provide a supportive environment that will help residents address challenges they face in their everyday lives,” said Minister Woloshyn. “It is very encouraging to see that through this agreement, affordable housing projects are being constructed that reflect and address the special needs of many Albertans.”

The total cost of the Salvation Army—START Program’s project is \$441,295, with \$125,000 being made available through the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program. Contributions and gifts-in-kind to the Salvation Army account for \$287,000 of the project costs.

The Salvation Army START Program provides direct services and supports to individuals who experience a developmental delay. These services include group living supports, community and facility based day programs, supported employment and respite services. Children’s services include family support services, respite services and group programs.

The Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program Agreement was signed in June 2002 between the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta. The agreement provides for a \$67.12 million federal contribution to be matched by the province and others to help increase the supply of low-cost housing in high growth, high need communities.

Since signing the agreement, the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta have allocated over \$40.2 million towards the creation of 21 projects and construction of 1,005 affordable housing units in Calgary, Edmonton, Fort McMurray, Red Deer, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Cochrane, and Brooks, as well as in the northern remote communities of Conklin and Janvier.

Funding under the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program Agreement 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](http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca).

-30-

For more information, contact:

Ed Conway  
Alberta Seniors Communications  
Ph: (780) 415-9952

Jason Cobb  
CMHC Communications  
Ph: (403) 515-2903

## Backgrounder

Applicant:	The Salvation Army – START Program	
Project Location:	372 Diefenbaker Drive Fort McMurray, Alberta	
Target Clients:	Special needs individuals with severe disabilities.	
Number of Units	Five-bedroom group home	
Unit type	5 x bedrooms	
Total Project Cost:	\$441,295	
Proposed Rents:	\$450 / month One-bedroom units	
AHPI Grant:	\$62,500	(Federal)
	\$62,500	(Provincial)
Other contributions:	\$187,000	Cash donations/fundraising
	\$100,000	Gifts-in-kind
	\$30,000	Alberta government
Contact:	Iris Pasareno, Program Director START Program, Salvation Army Telephone: (780) 743-4135	

-30-

For more information, contact:

Ed Conway  
Alberta Seniors Communications  
Ph: (780) 415-9952

Jason Cobb  
CMHC Communications  
Ph: (403) 515-2903