

News Release

Edmonton, January 8, 2004

Red Deer receives government funding for new affordable housing project

The Handicapped Housing Society of Alberta (HHSA) will receive \$1.3 million under the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program to build a 65-unit complex that will meet the needs of a variety of Red Deer residents. 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 development of affordable housing in high need communities is a priority for the Government of Canada,” said Deputy Prime Minister McLellan. “This partnership project with the Province of Alberta, the Handicapped Housing Society of Alberta and others will help us build stronger communities and improve the housing conditions for the residents of Red Deer.”

“Low to moderate income families and seniors, the physically disabled, and women and children who have fallen victim to family violence will be provided with safe and affordable housing through this project,” said Minister Woloshyn. “I would like to commend the Handicapped Housing Society of Alberta for helping to address affordable housing needs in their community.”

The 65-unit complex will consist of 25 one-bedroom units, 20 two-bedroom units, and 20 emergency and transitional housing units. Total project cost is approximately \$5.8 million, with \$1.3 million being made available through the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program grant funding. The remaining funding was provided by the Government of Canada’s National Homelessness Initiative, the Provincial Homeless Initiative as well as gifts, donations to HHSA, and contributions from the Community Lottery Board and the Red Deer & District Community Foundation.

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.

The Government of Canada launched the National Homelessness Initiative (NHI) in December 1999 to support communities’ efforts to help Canadians out of homelessness. Funding for the NHI was renewed in the

February 2003 Budget, which announced \$405 million for three years to continue the federal government's commitment to addressing homelessness in Canada.

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.

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For more information, contact:

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Backgrounder

Applicant:	The Handicapped Housing Society of Alberta	
Project Location:	7720 – 52 Avenue Red Deer, Alberta	
Target Clients:	Low to moderate-income families and seniors, the physically disabled, and women and children involved in family violence.	
Number of Units	65-unit apartment	
Unit type	15 x one-bedroom affordable housing units 11 x two-bedroom affordable housing units 10 x one-bedroom market rent units 9 x two-bedroom market rent units 20 x emergency / transitional units	
Total Project Cost:	\$5,832,705	
Proposed Rents:	\$430 / month One-bedroom affordable housing units \$650 / month One-bedroom market rent units \$515 / month Two-bedroom affordable housing units \$850 / month Two-bedroom market rent units	
CAAHP Grant:	\$650,000 (Federal) \$650,000 (Provincial)	
Other contributions:	\$500,000 Gifts in kind \$456,029 Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative \$270,000 Handicapped Housing Society of Alberta donations \$72,962 Community Lottery Board \$50,000 Red Deer & District Community Foundation \$43,971 Provincial Homeless Initiative	
Contact:	David Haut, Chief Executive Officer Handicapped Housing Society of Alberta Telephone: (780) 415-1114 Ext. 227	

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