

News Release

Edmonton, February 18, 2004

Remote communities receive funding for affordable housing

Approximately \$2.5 million is being allocated to several northern Alberta communities to create 33 affordable housing units for low-income families, couples, seniors and low-income workers. Funding is being provided through the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program and was announced 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 working so closely with the Province of Alberta to provide affordable housing for those living in Alberta’s remote communities,” said Deputy Prime Minister McLellan. “These projects will provide important support for those in our society who need it most and will help us to build stronger, sustainable communities.”

“Through these projects, we will be addressing the affordable housing shortage in these northern communities,” said Minister Woloshyn. “Many families who are currently living in overcrowded or unsafe housing conditions will be able to access modest, safe and affordable housing.”

The 33 units will be constructed within the Municipal District of Opportunity, the Municipal District of Greenview, and the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Details are being finalized in consultation with the municipalities.

The Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program Agreement was signed in June 2002 between the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta. It 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 March of 2003, the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta have allocated approximately \$42.7 million in Alberta towards the development of 1,038 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.

With several additional project proposals for 2003-04 currently under review, provincial and federal funding is expected to reach \$35 million for this fiscal year. This amount will be further enhanced through contributions from other partners including municipalities, local community housing authorities, non-profit organizations, and private sector companies.

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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