



PRESS RELEASE



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Affordable Housing Project Begins Construction

KINGSTON, Ontario, November 24, 2006 — The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the City of Kingston held a sod-turning ceremony today to mark the start of construction on a project that will create 49 units of affordable housing for senior citizens and disabled seniors.

The Honourable John Gerretsen, Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and MPP for Kingston and the Islands; Kingston Mayor Harvey Rosen; and representatives from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) attended today's ceremony.

"Canada's new Government is proud to be a partner in this important project, which will provide safe, affordable and accessible housing for those who need it most," said the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development. "Once constructed, these 49 new units will help seniors and seniors living with disabilities start a new page in their lives."

"Funding the Van Order Drive project is an important part of the Ontario government's strategy to help provide affordable housing for vulnerable residents of Ontario," said Minister Gerretsen. "Kingston and Frontenac Housing has made creative use of affordable housing funding by providing affordable and safe housing — plus mental health, medical and counselling services that residents can access right at home. By supporting the construction of this project, the Province is helping to give seniors in Kingston the support they need to live independently and with dignity. The 49 new units will make a significant difference in the lives of the people who will call them home."

The \$8.9 million project, including \$3.4 million from the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program, will provide 49 new apartments at 125 Van Order Drive in Kingston. The project is sponsored by Kingston and Frontenac Housing Corporation.

Mayor Harvey Rosen stated "The City of Kingston, as one of the partners on this affordable housing project is pleased to celebrate with our federal, provincial and community partners, the start of construction on this 49 unit senior's complex sponsored by Kingston & Frontenac Housing Corporation. The City of Kingston views the provision of new, safe and affordable housing as a one of its consistent priorities and is also pleased to be able to provide long-term subsidies under the Rent Supplement Program, allowing ten seniors to pay rent based on their income."

"The Kingston & Frontenac Housing Corporation is thrilled to announce that construction has commenced on its seniors affordable housing complex and new administrative offices on Van Order Drive. The new building will make a significant difference to the lives of many seniors living in affordable rental housing designed to meet their needs. This project is truly a partnership of the housing corporation, local support agencies, various city departments, as well as the provincial and federal governments," stated George Sutherland, Chair of the Kingston & Frontenac Housing Corporation.

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The new Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program comprises a commitment of \$301 million from each of the two senior levels of government. In total, the federal, provincial and municipal governments will invest at least \$734 million in the program, which will provide affordable housing for 20,000 households in Ontario.

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