



PRESS RELEASE



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13 New Social and Community Housing Units for the Centre Dahlia of La Rue des Femmes, in Montréal

MONTRÉAL, Quebec, November 30, 2006 — Women in difficulty now have more resources thanks to the renovation of a building in the borough of Ville-Marie, in Montréal, for the development of the 13 bachelor units of the Centre Dahlia of La Rue des Femmes.

This announcement was made today, on the occasion of the opening of this building, by the Honourable Michael M. Fortier, Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister responsible for Montréal, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development; by Vincent Auclair, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Regions and MNA for Vimont, on behalf of Nathalie Normandeau, Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Regions; and by Catherine Sévigny, Councillor for the District of Peter-McGill of the Borough of Ville-Marie, on behalf of Cosmo Maciocia, City of Montréal Executive Committee member responsible for housing; in the presence of the Honourable Lise Thibault, Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec. In addition to the Honourable Lise Thibault, Catherine Sévigny and Vincent Auclair, Léonie Couture, Founder and General Manager of La Rue des Femmes, also took part in the event, in the presence of representatives from the organization, workers, tenants and community partners.

“Canada’s new Government is pleased to have contributed to the renovation of this building in order to help women in difficulty,” said Minister Fortier. “Housing is a priority for our government, and we are pleased to work in cooperation with the Government of Quebec, the municipality and community sector representatives to provide our fellow citizens with a better quality of life.”

“We are very proud to have contributed our assistance for this transitional housing and community support project that provides these women in difficulty with tools and reference points that will help them regain their footing and move toward greater autonomy,” commented Vincent Auclair.

“The municipal administration made a wise choice in using all the tools at our disposal to facilitate the development of the 13 transitional housing units of the Centre Dahlia. This new resource completes the range of community support services provided by La Rue des Femmes, whose concern brings relief to the misery of these women rendered vulnerable by their life experiences. As well, this project is one of the first to be completed under our commitment to repeat our Solidarité 5000 logements operation during this second mandate,” said Cosmo Maciocia.

“I would like to express my admiration for the courage and tenacity of the workers at La Rue des Femmes, for their sensitive interventions with these women who are forsaken, abandoned and too often deemed guilty when they are, in fact, victims,” maintained Catherine Sévigny.

More than \$1.3 million was invested by public partners to develop this housing project. The financial contributions required for the completion of the project were made under the AccèsLogis Québec program. The Société d’habitation du Québec (SHQ) is granting La Rue des Femmes a subsidy that comes to \$249,275, while Canada Mortgage and

Housing Corporation (CMHC) provided the group with \$747,825 in financial assistance. The City of Montréal, for its part, contributed a sum of \$149,565. The funding arrangements were completed by a sum of \$155,882 provided in equal shares by the SHQ and the City of Montréal to La Rue des Femmes, under the Renovation Québec program.

The development of this project is part of the Government of Quebec's initiative to produce 20,000 social, community and private housing units for low- and moderate-income households, as well as people in difficulty with special housing needs, by 2009.

The Governments of Canada and Quebec signed two agreements to increase the supply of affordable housing in the province. These agreements provide for a total contribution of \$473 million, with \$236.5 million from the federal government and an equivalent sum on the part of the Quebec government and the municipalities participating in the Affordable Housing Québec and AccèsLogis Québec programs.

The Centre Dahlia is a project that increased the number of affordable housing units for low-income households in Montréal.

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