



PRESS RELEASE



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Governments Invest \$2 Million for New Affordable Housing in Winnipeg

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, March 13, 2007 — Low-income seniors in St. Vital will benefit from more than \$2 million in funding to build a supportive housing and assisted living apartment block as part of the Riverside Lions Seniors Residences Inc. project. The project is made possible with funding support from the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg, through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI).

Today's announcement was made by the Honourable Nancy Allan on behalf of Gord Mackintosh, Manitoba Minister of Family Services and Housing; Steven Fletcher, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health and Member of Parliament for Charleswood – St. James – Assiniboia on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development; Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz; and Réal Cloutier, Vice-President Long Term Care, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. This announcement highlights the on-going efforts of the three levels of government to provide affordable housing solutions for Canadians who need shelter and the necessary support services.

"Our goal is to ensure that all Manitobans have access to safe, affordable housing, with additional support for those who need it," said Allen. "Partnerships such as this show that by working together we can build the kind of housing that helps seniors and others in our community."

"Canada's New Government is committed to providing housing solutions for seniors, so that they can continue to live in their communities, close to their family and friends, with dignity and independence," said Parliamentary Secretary Fletcher. "We are proud to be a partner in this project that will give seniors in St. Vital more access to quality, affordable housing to meet their specific needs."

"I wish to congratulate Riverside Lions on their success in bringing about this housing expansion for seniors," said Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz. "Our city benefits from the efforts of non-profit organizations such as this that bring positive change to our community."

"The supportive housing units address a real need in our community to provide the most appropriate type of housing for our clients," said Réal Cloutier, noting that portion of the project is part of the Manitoba's Aging In Place Strategy and the WRHA's Long Term Care strategy.

"Riverside Lions is pleased to be a partner in the development of this apartment block," said Stand Puchniak, Vice-President, Riverside Lions Senior's Residence Inc. "This project will not only provide assisted living shelter, but will meet the urgent health-care needs of low-income seniors, particularly those suffering from early stage dementia or Alzheimer's disease."

The Riverside Lions Seniors Residences Inc. is building a fully accessible five-storey, 75 unit apartment building. It will be linked to the existing independent living seniors building at 188 Worthington Avenue. The project will have 48 supportive housing studio units for seniors with early-stage dementia/Alzheimer's and 27 one-bedroom units offering assisted living for seniors.

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The funding is coordinated by the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative, a partnership established by the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba, and the City of Winnipeg to address homelessness, declining housing stock and the revitalization of Winnipeg's older neighbourhoods. Since 2000, the WHHI partnership has committed over \$91 million to repair, rehabilitate or construct over 3,600 units and 144 rooms or beds, as well as assist the homeless or those at risk of being homeless. For information, organizations or citizens can call 204-940-3070.

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Backgrounder

WHHI Project — Riverside Lions Seniors Residences Inc.

- Affordable Housing Initiative New Rental Supply Program (AHI-NRS) funding of \$2,292,700 has been approved to construct a fully accessible five-storey 75-unit apartment building that will be linked to the existing independent living seniors building at 188 Worthington Avenue in St. Vital.
- The project comprises 48 supportive housing studio units for seniors with early-stage dementia/Alzheimer's and 27-one-bedroom units offering assisted living for seniors.
- The total estimated project capital costs are \$9,842,200.
- Riverside Lions Seniors Residences Inc. is contributing equity (cash and land) of \$535,000 and will finance \$7,014,500.
- All units will be targeted to senior households with total gross household income no greater than \$30,146 annually, which represents 65 % of the AHI maximum income (currently \$46,379 annually).
- The approved rents (shelter rent component) for the 48 supportive housing units and for the 27 assisted living one-bedroom units are \$525 per month.
- The project will be managed by Riverside Lions Seniors Residences Inc.
- The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) will be providing approximately \$613,200 to cover staffing and health care costs of the 48 supportive housing units.