



**PRESS RELEASE**



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## **New Assisted Living Homes Open for Seniors in the North**

**KITAMAT, British Columbia, September 22, 2007** — Seniors in the North now have access to more housing and health options after today's official opening of Delta King Place, a new \$4.5-million, 15-unit assisted living development for seniors in Kitimat.

"Canada's New Government is committed to making affordable housing more available in British Columbia and across Canada for those who need it most," said the Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development. "With the opening of this project, seniors in Kitimat will now have access to quality, affordable housing and the services they need to meet their specific needs, while remaining close to their families and friends."

Delta King Place is the first housing development of its kind to open in Kitimat. The development is funded under Independent Living BC, a housing-for-health program in which the federal and provincial governments, the regional health authority and non-profit societies partner together to provide more housing and care options for seniors.

"The Province is committed to providing seniors with secure and affordable housing," said Dennis MacKay, MLA Bulkley Valley – Stikine. "The opening of Delta King Place means that seniors and adults with disabilities in Kitimat will be able to maintain their independent lifestyles in a supportive and welcoming environment."

The units are self-contained, wheel chair accessible apartments with a 24-hour response system. Residents receive personal care services, such as recreational opportunities and assistance with medications, housekeeping, meals, and laundry services. The Province provides an annual housing subsidy to ensure that the housing remains affordable. Northern Health funds the personal care and hospitality services.

"The development of assisted living units in communities throughout the North is a major step in providing local seniors and people with disabilities with a range of health services. We want to help seniors remain healthy and independent for as long as they're able, and support them when they can no longer live independently," said Deanna Nyce on behalf of the Northern Health Board.

"Our community is thrilled to open a facility that will allow our seniors and adults with disabilities to have access to assistance and housing options, without having to leave the area," said Mayor Richard Wozney, District of Kitimat. "Delta King Place is offering another choice to those who need it most."

"Our mission is to support independence for seniors and adults with disabilities in our community," said Jim Moore, President, Delta King Place Housing Society. "Delta King Place serves an important role in our community, offering housing and health support that leads to longer, healthier lives."

These new units are part of the British Columbia government's commitment to provide 5,000 net-new residential care beds, assisted living units, and supportive housing with home support units by the end of 2008. To date, 8,839 new and

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replacement beds and units have been built, including 3,411 net-new beds.

The Province of British Columbia is committed to providing more than 4,000 affordable assisted living apartments for B.C. seniors and persons with disabilities. To date, more than 3,900 have been allocated in communities across the province. The Province's budget for shelters and affordable housing is \$328 million — nearly triple what it was in 2001.

The Government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, will contribute over \$130 million by 2010 towards affordable housing in B.C. The provincial government provides a minimum of \$34 million annually to subsidize the cost of units built under the Canada – British Columbia Affordable Housing Agreement, as part of a larger strategy to provide a range of housing options for British Columbians in greatest need.

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## Backgrounder

### Delta King Place

Delta King Place, at 701 Mountainview Square in Kitimat, provides 15 assisted living apartments for seniors. The development was completed in July and opened to residents in August 2007.

The one-storey wood-frame building includes one two-bedroom and 14 one-bedroom suites, all of which are wheelchair accessible. Eligible residents pay 70 per cent of their after-tax income for their units and services, which include meals, weekly housekeeping and linen services, 24-hour response, personal care services, and social and recreational opportunities.

### Partners and Funding:

Capital cost of this project is \$4.5 million.

- The federal government, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, provided a \$616,000 grant under the Canada/BC Affordable Housing Agreement.
- The provincial government provided a one-time grant of \$375,000.
- The province purchased the land for \$227,000 and will lease it to the society.
- J Oviatt Contracting Ltd. donated \$117,000 in site preparation materials and labour.
- The District of Kitimat provided \$60,000.
- Alcan Kitimat Works donated \$56,750.
- The remainder of the funding is provided in the form of a mortgage through the province's operating agreement.

Operating costs for the project will be provided as follows:

- The province is providing a housing subsidy of approximately \$3.2 million over 35 years.
- Northern Health is providing funding for the personal care and hospitality services to tenants.

**Delta King Place Housing Society**

Delta King Place Housing Society is a non-profit organization that was formed in 2005 to fill a need in the community for people whose needs fall between living independently and complex care. The development was initiated by the Kiwanis Club of Kitimat in May 2003, followed by the formation of the Delta King Place Housing Society in 2005. The volunteers on the respective Boards were instrumental in providing the leadership and resources to complete the facility.