



PRESS RELEASE



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New Seniors Housing Complex and Primary Health Care Centre Opens its Doors in Edmonton

EDMONTON, Alberta, May 20, 2008 — Community partners gathered in Edmonton today to celebrate the grand opening of Centre de santé Saint-Thomas Health Centre. This \$25 million project will provide supportive housing and assisted living programs for seniors, as well as a primary health care centre offering health promotion, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programs to the community at large.

Participating in the grand opening ceremony were representatives of the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta, the City of Edmonton and the Capital Health Region which provided a significant donation.

“The Government of Canada is committed to making affordable housing available in Alberta and across Canada for those who need it most,” said Minister Ambrose, MP for Edmonton-Spruce Grove, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Minister of Western Economic Diversification and President of the Queen’s Privy Council for Canada, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development. “Projects like the Centre de santé Saint-Thomas Health Centre, will give seniors in Edmonton the opportunity to stay in their community, close to family and friends, while receiving the care and support they need.”

“The Centre de santé Saint-Thomas Health Centre is an innovative and affordable housing project that helps address the needs of seniors in our province” said Yvonne Fritz, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs. “The Canada – Alberta Affordable Housing Agreement is an excellent example of how our province can work in partnership with the Government of Canada.”

The centre has received \$2.5 million in federal and provincial funding under the Canada – Alberta Affordable Housing Program, for the provision of 50 affordable housing units to low-income residents. Services will be provided in both French and English.

“The construction of our aging-in-place facility and primary health care centre will allow members of our community to receive much needed services in French”, said Maurice Gaudet, President of Saint-Thomas. “We express our gratitude to the federal, provincial and municipal governments for their financial assistance, Capital Health Region, The Good Samaritan Society, and members of the Edmonton Francophone community for bringing this project to fruition.”

“We are pleased about our partnership with Saint-Thomas Health Centre,” says Joanne Mueller, Director of Supportive Living, Capital Health. “We know through our ongoing relationship that Saint-Thomas is committed to working with us to provide the best housing and care options to seniors in safe and supportive environments. It is through partnerships such as this that we are able to ensure a high quality of care to our clients across the health continuum.”

All of the housing units will be private and are expected to create a “home-like” atmosphere for the residents. The main floor of the complex will include the Primary Health Care Centre, the facility’s main food preparation area and other amenities such as a beauty shop, tuck shop and multipurpose rooms.

The Canada – Alberta Affordable Housing Program assisted in the creation of sustainable rental housing for low- to moderate-income Albertans, through the construction of new or renovated affordable housing units. Under the program, close to \$200 million was committed to affordable housing projects throughout the province that will lead to the development of close to 3,700 units.

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