



PRESS RELEASE



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Government of Canada Partners to Bring Supportive Housing for Abuse Victims to Vanderhoof

VANDERHOOF, British Columbia, August 05, 2008 — Construction has begun for a supportive housing complex run by the Omineca Safe Home Society. Funded by the federal government and other partners, this project will provide support and opportunities to women and children who have experienced domestic violence.

“The Government of Canada is delivering on its commitment to help the homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless,” said Dick Harris, Member of Parliament for Cariboo – Prince George, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development. “We are proud to support community efforts that help find local solutions to local problems. Through this investment, the Omineca Safe Home Society complex will provide safe and supportive housing to women and their children who are experiencing family violence.”

The federal government, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), provided funding of \$600,000 through its Shelter Enhancement Program to build the four units of second-stage supportive housing. The Shelter Enhancement Program assists in repairing, rehabilitating and improving existing shelters for women and their children, youth and men who are victims of family violence; and in acquiring or building new shelters and second-stage housing where needed.

Other funding partners include the Vancouver Foundation, who provided \$75,000, and the Real Estate Foundation who provided \$75,000 and various other Vanderhoof businesses and community members who, together, provided a contribution of \$49,000.

“The support and safety this building provides will allow women, with or without children, to move on to the next step in their lives,” said Joy Aitkens, Retired Coordinator of the Omineca Transition House. “We would like to thank our community and funding partners for making this possible.”

Specialized services and programs will be available and the new facility will also include amenities and office space. Located downtown and near the Omineca Transition House, also owned and operated by the Omineca Safe Home Society, this housing complex is expected to be completed in early 2009.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has been Canada's national housing agency for more than 60 years. CMHC is committed to helping Canadians access a wide choice of quality, affordable homes, while making vibrant, healthy communities and cities a reality across the country. The Government of Canada, through CMHC, will contribute more than \$130 million towards affordable housing in B.C.

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For more information on CMHC's Assisted Housing programs, call 1-800-668-2642.