



PRESS RELEASE



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New Housing Project for Low-Income Saskatoon Seniors

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan, September 05, 2008 — Low-income seniors in Saskatoon have access to new affordable rental housing with the opening today of Columbian Manor, thanks to federal, provincial and municipal funding totaling \$3.5 million.

“The Government of Canada is committed to making affordable housing available in Saskatchewan and across Canada for those who need it most,” said Lynne Yelich, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development and Member of Parliament for Blackstrap. “Projects like the Columbian Manor, will give seniors in Saskatoon the opportunity to stay in their community, close to family and friends, while receiving the care and support they need.”

“Today’s announcement means that more lower income seniors in Saskatoon will be able to remain independent for as long as possible,” Social Services Minister Donna Harpauer said. “Our government is committed to working with our partners to meet the growing needs of retired and senior citizens. Safe, secure and stable housing is an important part of that, and a key component of the province’s HomeFirst strategy whereby all citizens have homes that promote health, independence, security and dignity.”

“We turned the sod for this complex two years ago, and I’m delighted that today, we open its doors to the seniors in our community,” Mayor Donald Atchison said. “It is just another example of how these partnerships can work together successfully to ensure that all our citizens have safe, affordable housing and can enjoy a better quality of life. This is what makes a community strong.”

The 51 new rental units were constructed under the federal, provincial and municipal Centenary Affordable Housing Program (CAHP). The total budget for this project was \$6,082,136. Under CAHP, funding assistance of \$1,734,000 was provided by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, \$1,387,200 from Saskatchewan Housing Corporation and \$346,800 from the City of Saskatoon. The funding balance was provided by K.C. Charities in the form of mortgage financing (\$2,104,136) and land contribution (\$510,000). The project was co-ordinated by K.C. Charities Inc., a non-profit charitable corporation established in Saskatoon in 1983.

The units are adjoined to the existing Columbian Manor located at 2940 Louise Street in the Nutana area of Saskatoon. The building offers 47 one-bedroom and four two-bedroom suites, assisted living services, common areas and other amenities.

CAHP is funded under the Canada – Saskatchewan Affordable Housing Agreement. It provides approximately \$33 million in federal funding for affordable housing, which is matched by Saskatchewan, municipalities and other partners. With these matching contributions, more than \$66 million will be committed by 2008 for affordable housing.

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