



**For Immediate Release
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St. Catharines Celebrates New Affordable Housing

ST. CATHARINES — The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, Niagara Region, the City of St. Catharines, and Niagara Regional Housing, along with community partners Mainstream: An Unsheltered Workshop and Gateway Residential and Community Support Services, today celebrated the opening of a new affordable housing apartment complex in St. Catharines. This nine-unit housing project is supported by \$630,000 in funding under the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

Rick Dykstra, Member of Parliament for St. Catharines, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC); Jim Bradley, Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Member of Provincial Parliament for St. Catharines; Peter Partington, Niagara Regional Chair; Brian McMullan, Mayor of St. Catharines; along with Alan Cimprich and Dave Coplen of Gateway Residential and Community Support Services & Mainstream Services attended the event.

"The Government of Canada is committed to making affordable housing available in Ontario and across Canada for those who need it most," said MP Dykstra. "These new apartments provide more rental options for individuals with special needs in need of suitable, affordable housing, and are important to the economic and social well-being of the St. Catharines community."

"Our government is proud to partner with different levels of government and community organizations to deliver safe, affordable and sustainable housing to our province's most vulnerable people," said Minister Bradley. "We will continue to look for better ways to meet the housing needs of individuals and families in Niagara Region."

The nine-unit project located at 160 Ontario Street received \$630,000 funded through the two-year extension of the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program. The federal and provincial funding is completed by more than \$89,000 in municipal financial incentives.

"This supportive housing project exemplifies Niagara Region's commitment to working with our federal, provincial and municipal partners to improve access to quality, affordable housing for the people of Niagara," said Peter Partington, Chairman, Niagara Region.

"As a community, it is our responsibility to work together to try to meet the needs of all our citizens," said St. Catharines Mayor Brian McMullan. "By working with partners at all levels, this project will ensure safe, affordable, supportive housing for those who require it."

"The Board of Directors and employees of Gateway and Mainstream are excited to be able to offer nine units of safe, affordable, supportive housing for some of our community's most

vulnerable citizens”, stated Alan Cimprich, President of Mainstream. “The partnership between Gateway and Mainstream and our federal and provincial partners is the first of its kind in Niagara. Together, Gateway and Mainstream bring over 50 years of experience supporting people with mental health issues and developmental disabilities to live and be active participants in their community. “

The Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program Agreement comprises a commitment of \$301 million from each of the two senior levels of government. In total, the federal, provincial and municipal governments will invest at least \$734 million in the program, which will provide affordable housing for up to 20,000 households in Ontario.

In 2008, the Government of Canada committed more than \$1.9 billion over the next five years to improve and build new affordable housing and to help the homeless. Canada's Economic Action Plan builds on this with an additional one-time investment of more than \$2 billion over two years in new and existing social housing and lending of up to another \$2 billion to municipalities for housing-related infrastructure. Combined for Ontario, this means a further \$1.2-billion joint investment under the amended Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program Agreement. The federal and provincial governments are contributing equally to this overall investment.

In 2009, Ontario allocated a combined federal and provincial investment of \$704 million for the renovation of social housing, and \$540 million for the creation of new affordable housing. This investment is part of the Open Ontario plan, and will create an estimated 23,000 jobs over the course of the program, while strengthening local economies across the province. To date, Ontario has approved more than \$459 million for construction-ready projects, which will provide affordable housing for low-income families, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities, and \$343 million for repairs benefiting some 148,000 social housing units. To find out more about affordable housing in Ontario, visit www.mah.gov.on.ca.

To find out more about how the Government of Canada and CMHC are working to build stronger homes and communities for all Canadians, call CMHC at 1-800-668-2642 or visit www.cmhc.ca/housingactionplan. For more information on Canada's Economic Action Plan, call 1-800-O Canada or visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

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www.ontario.ca/housing