



Media Release

Niagara Regional Housing Welcomes Provincial Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy

NIAGARA REGION, November 29, 2010- Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) is expecting positive changes for Niagara with today's announcement of the Provincial Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy. Called "Building Foundations: Building Futures", the strategy will permit more local flexibility, consolidate housing and homeless programs, simplify complex rent-gear to income ("RGI") calculations for affordable housing tenants, and require multi-year local plans to address community needs.

The Province promised a long-term affordable housing strategy in the Spring of this year and its release has been widely anticipated across Ontario. NRH consulted broadly for Niagara's submission to the Provincial Consultations for the strategy. More than 3,000 surveys were distributed to stakeholders, whose comments were incorporated into the NRH submission in December of 2009.

"It's been a long wait, but it's definitely worth it" said Lora Beckwith, General Manager of NRH, "When we did our consultations, there were very clear messages from our tenants and our community partners," said Beckwith, "We all want the processes to be simpler, more predictable funding, more local flexibility to meet local needs, and better integration of support services. The province's announcement addresses many of the concerns in our report. In particular, the province has committed to simplifying the system and allowing more flexibility, both of which will allow us to better meet the true needs of the citizens of Niagara."

Currently, there are close to 10,000 people from across Niagara on the NRH affordable housing waiting list. Niagara Regional Housing administers affordable housing for Niagara Region. More information is available at www.nrh.ca.

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