



## Media Release

### **401 Additional Affordable Housing Units Planned**

NIAGARA REGION, July 7, 2006 – A Niagara Regional Housing plan to create 401 more affordable housing units across the region received approval at Regional Council yesterday.

The Housing Delivery Plan, which is based on confirmed funding of \$10.7 million from the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program, has three elements:

- 170 rent allowances provided through agreements with private market landlords, totaling \$2.14 million;
- 110 new affordable housing units to be created through new construction, renovation or refurbishing of existing sites, totaling \$7.7 million; and
- 121 homeownership loans to assist low to moderate income earners to purchase a home, totaling \$864,000, which is under consideration.

“In partnership with Niagara Region, local municipalities, developers, non-profit housing providers and community agencies, it is possible to bring affordable housing to an additional 401 households,” said Dave Eke, Board Chairman, Niagara Regional Housing and Regional Councillor for Niagara-on-the-Lake.

“Many people and agencies have expressed an interest in working with us and, with this detailed plan, we have a road map that will lead to positive results over the next five years,” added Lora Beckwith, General Manager, Niagara Regional Housing.

Information sessions related to each funding program will begin this fall.

Niagara Regional Housing works with non-profit housing providers, housing co-ops, the private sector, community groups and governments to create affordable housing for those in greatest need. Subsidized housing is provided for people with low to moderate incomes, including: seniors on fixed incomes; people with mental or physical disabilities; women and children fleeing abuse; low income families; Aboriginal people and those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Four thousand five hundred (4,500) households, representing over 8,000 people, are currently registered on the centralized waiting list for affordable housing.

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For more information, contact:  
Lora Beckwith, General Manager  
905-682-9201 ext. 340