



## Media Release

### Niagara Regional Housing Seeks Interest in Affordable Housing Development

NIAGARA REGION, March 3, 2009 - The recent Federal announcement of \$2 billion for affordable housing has prompted Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) to assess community interest in the development of new affordable housing options. Today, NRH has released an Expression of Interest (EOI) requesting information on potential affordable housing development projects that could be eligible for future funding.

NRH believes that the ability to assess projects and use Federal and Provincial financial support quickly will be crucial in addressing the need for affordable housing in Niagara and creating job opportunities to revitalize the local economy. Although the details of the new program are not known at this time, NRH is positioning to respond quickly when it is formally announced. According to Maryellen MacLellan, NRH Manager of Community Programs, "it is our understanding that any new program will cover two years with the intent to stimulate the economy with projects that can get off to an "Early Start" within the current calendar year. Particularly in these difficult economic times, NRH wants to be ready to go so that we can get all possible funds for Niagara".

Through the release of this Expression of Interest, NRH hopes to gain an indication of the community's interest in developing affordable housing and assess the number of projects that could be ready for "Early Start" within the 9 months time frame. For the purpose of this EOI, "Early Start" refers to affordable housing projects in Niagara which meet the following criteria:

- Proponent (Public or Non-profit) already owns land
- Proposed property is pre-zoned multi-residential
- Preliminary building plans or architectural drawings complete
- For Brownfield – Phase 1 Environmental Assessment complete

"Niagara needs more affordable housing development. NRH believes that a proactive approach will maximize our ability to create housing - and create jobs in the process", said MacLellan. Developers interested in participating in this program are invited to contact NRH or visit the web site at [www.nrh.ca](http://www.nrh.ca).

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