



Daryl Kramp, M.P.
Prince Edward-Hastings

NEWS RELEASE

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Governments of Canada and Ontario Celebrate New Affordable Housing in Hastings County

Belleville, Ontario – The grand opening of 20 new affordable housing rental units for low-income seniors was held today in Belleville. The project received \$2.4 million in funding from the federal and provincial governments.

Daryl Kramp, Member of Parliament for Prince Edward—Hastings, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC); and the Honourable Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Education and Member of Provincial Parliament for Prince Edward—Hastings, on behalf of the Honourable Rick Bartolucci, Ontario’s Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; along with Jo-Anne Albert, Warden, Hastings County, made the announcement.

“The Government of Canada is dedicated to helping those in need in Belleville through these tough economic times,” said Daryl Kramp, MP. “Through projects like these, our Government is providing safe, affordable housing to seniors in our community while also creating jobs and stimulating our economy.”

“Building new affordable housing is a welcome and much needed addition for seniors living in our community,” said MPP Dombrowsky. “As part of our Open Ontario plan, this construction project will stimulate the economy by creating jobs and supporting local businesses right here in Belleville.”

“The County is very excited to have additional housing for seniors built in Belleville and is particularly excited with the fact that this new building will be owned by the Hastings Local Housing Corporation,” said Warden Albert. “The County intends to offer these new units at full rent-geared-to-income rates which increases the depth of affordability for tenants. This commitment further demonstrates the County’s dedication to continue to provide safe, modest and affordable housing to low income residents of Hastings County.”

Fry Residence, a 20-unit project located at 185 Cannifton Road in Belleville received \$2.4 million from the amended Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program. The federal and provincial funding is complemented by the County of Hastings commitment to offer these units at full rent-geared-to-income rates.

The Government of Canada wants to ensure that Canadians on fixed incomes can live with independence and dignity and remain in their communities, close to family and friends. *Canada's Economic Action Plan* provides \$400 million, over two years, to build new rental housing for low-income seniors. Overall, the Economic Action Plan includes \$2 billion for the construction of new and the renovation of existing social housing, plus up to \$2 billion in low-cost loans to municipalities for housing-related infrastructure. *Canada's Economic Action Plan* builds on the Government of Canada's commitment in 2008 of more than \$1.9 billion, over five years, to improve and build new affordable housing and help the homeless.

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 is creating 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 \$521 million for construction-ready projects, which will provide affordable housing for low-income families, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities, and \$539.60 million for repairs benefiting some 175,389 social housing units.

More information on this and other measures in *Canada's Economic Action Plan* can be found at www.actionplan.gc.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.

More information about affordable housing in Ontario can be found at www.ontario.ca/housing.

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