News release

Alberta

June 16, 2009

Province helps build more affordable housing in Lethbridge

Lethbridge... Low to moderate-income individuals living in Lethbridge will soon have more options for affordable housing thanks to a new development funded by the Alberta government and community partners.

“Safe, affordable housing is a fundamental requirement for Albertans’ well-being and prosperity,” said Yvonne Fritz, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs. “Developments such as this contribute to building strong communities, while making a difference in the lives of low-income Albertans and their families.”

The Lethbridge and Region Community Housing Corporation developed an affordable housing plan that targets low-income families and those with special needs. The new development will feature eight three-bedroom units and eight two-bedroom units of which two will be barrier free and wheelchair accessible. It will be located at 449-477 Leaside Avenue South and has been allocated $2.5 million in provincial funding.

“I commend the Lethbridge and Region Community Housing Corporation for

bringing forward this excellent development opportunity," said Greg Weadick, MLA for Lethbridge-West at a ground breaking ceremony hosted by the Lethbridge and Region Community Housing Corporation. "Their great work will benefit people most in need of affordable housing in the Lethbridge area."

"We are excited that our initiative in Lethbridge is being funded through the Alberta government's vision and ongoing commitment towards assisting families in need of affordable housing," said Steve Whittington, President of the Lethbridge and Region Community Housing Corporation. "We are grateful to be a part of this worthwhile enterprise and hope that additional housing developments may be realized in our region."

The Lethbridge and Region Community Housing Corporation is the development arm of the Lethbridge Housing Authority. The Housing Authority administers 895 units of social housing for individuals, families, seniors and persons with special needs in the communities of Lethbridge, Coalhurst, Magrath and Nobleford.

2008-09 was the second year the province provided funding support through a Request For Proposal (RFP) process and is part of the Alberta government's five-year strategy to create more than 11,000 affordable housing units by 2012. This RFP funding was a component of the $309 million in capital funding provided to municipalities, non-profit organizations and private developers in 2008-09 that supported the development of affordable housing in Alberta.

This capital investment complements the government's four-point plan for economic recovery, which calls for keeping an eye on spending, using savings to protect programs and services for Albertans while keeping taxes low, continuing to invest in infrastructure, and promoting the province on the world stage.

To find out more about affordable housing programs and services supported by Housing and Urban Affairs, please visit www.housing.alberta.ca.

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