



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Joint Government Funding Increases Affordable Housing in Leduc

Leduc, Alberta – Lower income Albertans, including seniors and persons with disabilities in search of affordable housing in Leduc will have more housing options thanks to a \$1.57 million joint investment for Connect Crossing and Leduc Terrace by the Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta. The funding is part of the \$238 million equal investment made over 2009 to 2011, under the amended Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program Agreement, which includes funding under *Canada's Economic Action Plan*.

Leduc Foundation has two 12-suite apartment buildings in Leduc. Each of the two buildings contain twelve 1-bedroom suites. Five of the units in each building are barrier free. Today is the official grand opening of Connect Crossing and Leduc Terrace. This initiative will complete the third and final year of the three-year Leduc-Beaumont-Devon Regional Affordable Housing Plan. Leduc Foundation has partnered with LINKS Connects to serve some of their clients who are persons with developmental disabilities.

"Our Government is proud to have contributed to the development of Connect Crossing and Leduc Terrace," said James Rajotte, Member of Parliament for Edmonton-Leduc, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). "The opening of these apartment buildings makes a real and lasting difference in our community, improving access to affordable housing and offering a better quality of life for our residents."

"The Alberta government is pleased to partner with community organizations to help address locally-identified needs," said George Rogers, MLA for Leduc-Beaumont-Devon on behalf of Doug Griffiths, Minister of Alberta Municipal Affairs. "Together, with support from our federal partner, we are building stronger communities by helping some of our most vulnerable citizens have a safe and affordable place to call home."

"The addition of two – twelve suite affordable housing buildings is a very welcome addition to our portfolio. It expands the range of housing options that are available to seniors, individuals, and families of modest means within our communities." said Dawson Kohl, Chairman of the Leduc Foundation Board.

The grant supporting these housing projects was provided through Alberta's 2009/2010 Affordable Housing Program. Non-profit organizations, private businesses and municipalities received funding to purchase or build affordable housing units, renovate existing rental units, develop secondary units in private homes or support other options as identified by the community.

Canada's Economic Action Plan built 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. The *Action Plan* provided \$400 million, over two years, to build new rental housing for low-income seniors. Overall, it provided more than \$2 billion for the construction of new and the renovation of existing social housing, plus \$2 billion in low-cost loans to municipalities for housing-related infrastructure.

A new agreement signed recently by both orders of government implements Alberta's allocation of the remaining three years of the \$1.9 billion, which amounts to some \$60.57 million in additional federal funding for Albertans in housing need. The province will contribute another \$60.57 million in matching funds for a combined investment of more than \$121 million to support housing programs and services that help Alberta residents access safe, affordable housing.

Through partnership with federal and municipal governments, community groups, the non-profit and private sectors, Alberta has made great strides to increase the supply of affordable housing across the province. Since 2007, the Government of Alberta has supported the development of 12,000 affordable housing units for homeless and lower-income Albertans through capital grant funding in 62 communities. The province celebrated achieving and exceeding its goal of 11,000 units by 2012 in September. For more information on Alberta's housing support, visit www.housing.alberta.ca.

Leduc Foundation provides housing for seniors, individuals and families of modest means throughout Leduc County in the City of Leduc, Town of Beaumont, Town of Devon, Town of Calmar, Village of Thorsby, Village of Warburg, and the Hamlet of New Sarepta, Supportive Living, Seniors Apartments, family housing and rent supplement programs are all made available.

More information on this and other measures in *Canada's Economic Action Plan*, the federal government's plan to stimulate the economy and protect those hit hardest by the global recession, 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.

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