



**For Immediate Release  
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### **Social Housing Being Renovated in Niagara Region and Hamilton**

**St. Catharines, Ontario** – The Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario today announced that Niagara Region and the City of Hamilton received \$29.2 million to repair 187 existing social housing projects through the first year of the two-year Social Housing Renovation and Retrofit Program.

The Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), and Jim Bradley, Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, along with Peter Partington, Regional Chairman, Niagara Region and Brian McMullan, Mayor of St. Catharines, made the announcement.

"Through Canada's Economic Action Plan, our Government remains committed to giving a hand-up to those who need it most, including low-income seniors, people with disabilities, and families," said Minister Finley. "Funding renovation and retrofit projects, like these ones, will not only improve the quality of life of its residents by keeping their homes safe and affordable, but it will also help stimulate the local economy and create the conditions for long-term growth."

"The McGuinty government knows that funding the repair and renovation of affordable housing is one of the most important ways we can help the most vulnerable among our citizens," said Minister Bradley. "We are improving the health and safety of residents living in social housing communities, while working to provide enhanced accessibility for seniors and persons with disabilities."

"This renovation project is another great example of partnership in action among all levels of government," said Peter Partington, Regional Chairman, Niagara Region. "The Social Housing Renovation and Retrofit Program (SHRRP) is an effective means to increase the amount of safe and reliable social housing units available within our communities and improve the quality of life of current tenants by incorporating accessibility requirements and energy efficiency in the redesign of existing units."

"By assisting social housing providers to perform necessary maintenance, repairs and replacements, we ensure high-quality, affordable housing remains available to those who need it," said Mayor Brian McMullan. "The work done at Commonwealth and all the projects in the Niagara Region will extend the life of the units and improve the quality of life and comfort of the families who live there."

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Repairs that are eligible for funding include general improvements, energy-efficiency upgrades or conversions, and modifications to support people with disabilities. These repairs will help improve the quality of social housing for low-income seniors, people with disabilities and families. The following municipalities received funding under this program: Fort Erie, Hamilton, Lincoln, Niagara Falls, Port Colborne, St. Catharines, Thorold, Welland and West Lincoln.

Today's announcement was made at Commonwealth Co-operative Homes at 15 Richardson Court, which received \$815,000 for renovations to the property. Renovations include the replacement of windows and doors, installation of energy efficient furnaces and safety repairs to parking, roadways and walkways.

The Government of Canada wants to improve the quality of existing social housing to ensure that Canadians on fixed incomes can live with independence and dignity in their communities, close to family and friends. Canada's Economic Action Plan provides \$850 million, over two years, for the renovation and retrofit of existing social housing. 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 allocation 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 will create 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 \$483 million for construction-ready projects, which will provide affordable housing for low-income families, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities, and more than \$361 million for repairs benefiting some 150,000 social housing units. The province has made available \$70 million for the use of renewable energy technologies to improve energy efficiency in social housing as part of its Green Energy Strategy. To find out more about affordable housing in Ontario, visit [www.ontario.ca/housing](http://www.ontario.ca/housing).

More information on this and other measures in Canada's Economic Action Plan can be found at [www.actionplan.gc.ca](http://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](http://www.cmhc.ca/housingactionplan).

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For more information visit: [www.cmhc.ca](http://www.cmhc.ca)  
[www.ontario.ca/housing](http://www.ontario.ca/housing)



## BACKGROUND

### Renovation and Retrofit of Existing Social Housing Projects in Niagara Region and Hamilton

Municipality	Projects	Federal and Provincial Funding Amount
Fort Erie	8	\$1.08 million
Hamilton	92	\$18.97 million
Lincoln	3	\$664,000
Niagara Falls	11	\$1.43 million
Port Colborne	7	\$1.06 million
St. Catharines	37	\$4.28 million
Thorold	3	\$296,000
Welland	23	\$1.30 million
West Lincoln	3	\$130,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>\$29.2 Million</b>