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Murray Prokosch, Nicole Shupe, Len Mitzel, Garth Valley, Peter Wilde and Darren Rud cut the ribbon at the opening of Northlands Pointe and the Medicine Hat Centennial Housing Development Friday. Both projects will offer affordable housing to local residents.

Affordable housing options open

ANDREA KLASSEN

Medicine Hat News

On Friday, representatives from all levels of government gathered in Crescent Heights to celebrate the opening of two new affordable housing developments.

The Medicine Hat Centennial Housing Development offers 28 units to Hatters with disabilities or low incomes.

Rent in these units will be about 20 per cent lower than those in the rest of the city.

Units will be rented by people on Medicine Hat's social housing waiting list.

The other project, Northlands Pointe, has 219 units. These units are considered "attainable housing."

Through grants and subsidies, these units are sold at a lower than average price. Unit owners will also receive an equity subsidiary to help with mortgage costs and utility payments.

Northlands Pointe is the second affordable housing project built by Classic Construction Ltd. The company donated over \$3 million to the project.

In his remarks at the ceremony, Classic Construction Ltd. CEO Murray Prokosch discussed his experience buying his first house in Regina.

He remembered wanting a house that was \$14,000, but buying one that was \$11,000 instead, because the payments on the first would have been too steep.

"We had alternatives," he said. "Now when people need houses, where's the alternative? A house in Southridge is \$150,000, what do you do?"

Prokosch said the new developments offer Hatters these alternatives.

He also said all the units have already been sold and there are another 80 people on the waiting list.

"The demand is greater than we thought," he said.

Mayor Garth Valley stressed the importance of working with private businesses to provide affordable housing. He also said the city is looking for more land for another project.

"This is only the beginning," he told the crowd. "Let's keep this thing going, folks."

Prokosch says he's ready to start building more units as soon as the city finds more land.