



NEWS PHOTO EMMA BENNETT

This Northland Villas site in Crescent Heights is one development in the city that will benefit from the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program.

## Funding to make housing affordable

**Joint federal and provincial government program is bringing support to Medicine Hat to create affordable housing for those in need**

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Medicine Hat News

Medicine Hat is one of four municipalities that the government will give funding to in order to bring affordable housing to those most in need—usually seniors and people with disabilities.

Low-to-moderate-income Albertans, seniors and persons with disabilities living in Medicine Hat, Calgary, Edmonton and Red Deer will get a combined 169 new housing units that will be built with \$19 million in funding provided under phase two of the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program.

"We're very pleased this has happened," says Darren Rud, homeless community housing coordinator for the Medicine Hat Community Housing Society. "It's been a long process that couldn't have happened without the help of the Medicine Hat Community Foundation and the City of Medicine Hat—who donated the land."

According to Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, phase two of this program will commit at least \$63 million over two years to affordable housing projects throughout Alberta, with \$31.5 million being provided by the Government of Canada and \$31.5 million by the Government of Alberta.

"Canada's new government is committed to working with our partners to provide high-quality affordable housing for families and individuals across Alberta," said Finley.

The project that will be funded here is the Medicine Hat Affordable Housing Centennial Project located at Northlands Crescent N.E. It's specifically for low-to-moderate earning families and people with special needs. The 28 unit complex's total cost will be \$3,819,890. Of this money—through phase 2—\$1,508,445 will come from the federal government and \$1,508,445 from the Klein government.

Phase one of the project was announced by the two governments on June 28, 2005. At that time, \$9.6 million was split between affordable housing projects in Medicine Hat, Banff, Edmonton, Grande Cache, Grande Prairie and Whitecourt.

"I am very pleased with the success that we achieved in providing new affordable accommodations under phase one of the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program," said Yvonne Fritz, Minister of Seniors and Community Supports. She adds she hopes phase two will be as successful in the battle to help Albertans in need.

The Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing Program attempts to create sustainable rental housing for Albertans through the construction of new or renovated affordable housing units.