

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LESTER B. PEARSON PLACE OFFICIALLY OPENS

TORONTO — Canada's New Government, the Government of Ontario and the City of Toronto, along with NUC-TUCT Non-Profit Homes Corporation, marked the official opening of Lester B. Pearson Place, a new affordable housing apartment complex in Toronto. The building, located at 45 Cummer Avenue, provides 53 apartments for families, seniors and single people with mixed incomes.

Attending today's ceremony were Mike Wallace, Member of Parliament for Burlington, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development and Councillor David Shiner, Ward 24 Willowdale, on behalf of Toronto Mayor David Miller.

"Canada's New Government is committed to making quality, affordable housing more available for lower-income individuals, families and seniors here in Toronto and right across Canada," said MP Wallace. "Our government is pleased to work with our partners to extend a helping hand to those who are working towards building a better future."

"The volunteers of NUC TUCT Non-Profit Homes Corporation have worked tirelessly for many years to make this project a reality," said John Gerretsen, Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "Lester B. Pearson Place is an excellent example of how governments can work with community organizations to meet the needs of the community. I'm proud that the McGuinty government is a partner in this important project."

The \$11.5 million project, including \$1.5 million from the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program, was sponsored by the Newtonbrook United Church and the Taiwanese United Church of Toronto (Nuc-Tuct) Non-Profit Homes Corporation. The City of Toronto provided a \$2.96 million loan and property tax and fee waivers worth \$820,000.

"Since 2001 when I first met the wonderful NUC-TUCT volunteers I was impressed by their generosity and dedication to help others," said Shiner. "The NUC-TUCT team didn't just donate a very valuable piece of land, they also raised close to \$1 million and were successful in making Lester B. Pearson Place part of the community. It has truly been my honour to work with such a dedicated team of volunteers and it is with great pleasure that I join them in the official opening today."

"We were very pleased to welcome our new tenants on July 1st of 2006 and we continue to look forward to many years of seeing the children grow and the families enjoy coming home to Lester B. Pearson Place," said Evelyn Robertson, President of NUC-TUCT Non-Profit Homes. "We have been able to provide housing for 53 households and as the Board of NUC-TUCT Non-Profit Homes Corporation we have raised over \$ 946,000.00 towards our target of \$1Million. We appreciate the support of so many donors who have helped to make Lester B. Pearson Place a reality."

The new Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program Agreement comprises a commitment of \$301 million from each of the two senior levels of government. In total, the federal, provincial and municipal governments will invest at least \$734 million in the program, which will provide affordable housing for 20,000 households in Ontario.

The City of Toronto, through the Affordable Housing Committee, is working with the federal and provincial governments, community and private sectors to deliver 1,000 new rental homes in 2007.

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