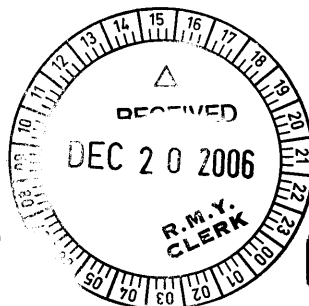


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Ontario

Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing

Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement

For Immediate Release
December 19, 2006

PROVINCE SUPPORTS FEDERAL HOUSING INITIATIVES

QUEEN'S PARK — Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing John Gerretsen today applauded the announcement by the federal government that it is continuing funding for homelessness initiatives and home renovation programs for an additional two years.

"I'm pleased that we could work together and that the federal government has responded to our government's continued efforts to protect these housing initiatives, which are so important in complementing Ontario's affordable housing investments," Gerretsen said. "These federal programs also play an important role in municipal efforts to address homelessness, build transitional and supportive housing, and preserve Ontario's affordable housing stock."

In Ontario, the McGuinty government has moved forward with a variety of investments designed to create new affordable housing in the province.

The Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program 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 create 15,000 new units of affordable housing for low-income households, victims of domestic violence, and people with mental illness, plus create 5,000 new housing allowances.

In addition, Ontario has provided municipalities with a long-term funding commitment of \$50 million per year for 20 years – \$1 billion dollars – for rent supplements across Ontario; created a \$14 million provincial Rent Bank Program; and passed a new Residential Tenancies Act.

"Affordable housing remains a top priority for the McGuinty government, and we will continue to ensure the most vulnerable among us can obtain decent, affordable housing," Gerretsen said. "The creation of affordable housing requires a partnership among all three levels of government, and I'm glad to see the federal government has decided to remain at the table."

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