

Stella Burry Corporation

news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16, 2001

Official Opening of Newly Renovated Carew Lodge for Homeless Persons

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND – The official opening of the newly renovated Carew Lodge, a shelter for homeless people, was celebrated today in a ceremony hosted by the Stella Burry Corporation. The celebration, organized by Executive Director Jocelyn Greene and staff at the Stella Burry Corporation, was attended by the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness and the Honourable Brian Tobin, Minister of Industry. The Honourable Oliver Langdon, Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs (Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation), also participated in the opening festivities. St. John's City Councillor, Frank Galgay, represented the City of St. John's. Geraldine Lush, representing the residents of Carew Lodge, and Judy Gard-Puddester, Principal of École Bishop Feild, also shared in the opening celebrations.

These celebrations bring to fruition the announcement of funding made in February 2001. This project provided the urgently needed refurbishment of Carew Lodge to ensure the continuing operation of the facility for its tenants, who otherwise would be homeless. Carew Lodge is primarily designed to provide 14 self-contained apartments that will help to address the housing needs of homeless and at-risk persons in the community. Outreach staffing resources are also being funded under this initiative. Community development staff assist individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to secure safe and affordable housing and to improve their social, health and economic well-being.

“This official opening of the newly renovated Carew Lodge is an example of the Government of Canada’s commitment to working with our partners to find innovative and successful ways of alleviating homelessness in Canada,” said Minister Bradshaw. “Projects such as Carew Lodge demonstrate that the National Homelessness Initiative is working.”

“I am delighted to participate today in the opening ceremonies for Carew Lodge,” said Minister Tobin. “This project is about building effective partnerships for the provision of safe and affordable shelter for homeless people in the St. John’s region.”

The Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation along with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) provided Carew Lodge with \$252,000 in funds from the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program-Conversion. Further, CMHC's Partnership Centre provided a \$23,700, zero-interest Proposal Development Fund loan to help the group to finalize its rehabilitation proposal.

“The Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs was pleased to play a leadership role in this important project through the co-operation between the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation,” said Minister Langdon. “This new facility will greatly assist the Stella Burry Corporation in providing its invaluable social and community services.”

“The City of St. John’s is pleased to have played a role in this project, which will benefit homeless people in the city for many years to come,” said Councillor Galgay.

Geraldine Lush, Carew Lodge Superintendent said, “This is really a dream come true for the residents of Carew Lodge. We are happy to have a safe and supportive place where people care about each other.”

Judy Gard-Puddester, Principal of École Bishop Feild, spoke on the benefits of the project for everyone in the area. “The Bishop Feild School Community would like to congratulate our neighbours on the opening of their new facility- Carew Lodge. Communities become stronger when neighbours respect and support each other in their goals.”

Jocelyn Greene, Executive Director of the Stella Burry Corporation, which also operates Emmanuel House and Naomi Centre, said, “This is an exciting day for our organization. The renovated Carew Lodge will help us to better assist those in urgent need of shelter. I want to thank everyone involved for their support and partnership which has culminated in this official opening day.”

The SCPI enables communities to bring together various partners to develop local solutions to their particular homelessness needs and issues. The National Homelessness Initiative is making a difference in addressing this issue by using a community-based approach to help develop solutions that work.

In December 1999, the Government of Canada approved more than \$753 million for Youth, Aboriginal and SCPI projects across the country. Carew Lodge received funding in the amount of \$534,886 in November 2000 and was the first SCPI project to be approved in St. John’s.

Funding for this project was provided for in the federal February 2000 budget and is therefore built into the existing financial framework.

For more information on the National Homelessness Initiative visit the web site at <http://hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/nsh-snsa>

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