

UPDATE

from the Ministry of Municipal
Affairs and Housing



December 2008

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**Federal, Provincial
and Municipal
Partners Recognize
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**Honouring Western
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**New Affordable
Housing for
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**Fareed Amin
Appointed Deputy
Minister of Municipal
Affairs and Housing**

MESSAGE FROM MINISTER JIM WATSON

We recently marked National Housing Day, an annual event that recognizes the need for safe, affordable and sustainable housing. It is important that we recognize this partnership among the federal, provincial and municipal governments as well as the project sponsors and service providers who provide affordable housing. [Read more](#)



NATIONAL HOUSING DAY

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MUNICIPAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM'S INAUGURAL YEAR ENDS ON HIGH NOTE

Seven young Ontarians have successfully completed one-year internships under the Municipal Internship Program. [Read more](#)



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Aboriginal peoples in the Greater Toronto Area will have greater access to affordable housing with support from the Ontario government. [Read more](#)



14 RECOGNIZED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Fourteen municipal officials were honoured with Long-standing Service Awards at last month's Ontario West Annual Conference in London. [Read more](#)



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Minister's Message



Welcome to the last issue of UPDATE for 2008. This is the e-newsletter of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Our goal is to keep you informed of developments in the housing and municipal sectors.

We recently marked National Housing Day, an annual event that recognizes the need for safe, affordable and sustainable housing. It is important that we recognize the partnership among the federal, provincial and municipal governments as well as the project sponsors and service providers that provide affordable housing. An article on the event can be found in this issue of UPDATE.

I participated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding last month that establishes a remarkable housing program for Aboriginal peoples in the Greater Toronto Area. An article in this UPDATE provides details on our government's partnership with aboriginal communities on this initiative to assist off-reserve families.

Meanwhile, five of the participants in the 2007-2008 Municipal Internship Program have accepted positions in government, and three of them are now employed by Ontario municipalities. This issue presents an intern's perspective on the Program, which has entered its second year.

Last month I had the pleasure of presenting 14 municipal officials from western Ontario with Long-standing Service Awards. In this issue of UPDATE, you will find photos and details of the largest presentation ceremony since the award program was established in 2004.

Please provide us with your feedback. If UPDATE has been forwarded to you and you would like to continue receiving our e-newsletter, please take the time to [subscribe](#).

I also want to wish you and your families the best of the holiday season and a happy new year.

Jim Watson
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

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National Housing Day

The Governments of Canada, Ontario and the City of Ottawa recognized National Housing Day on November 21 by honouring the accomplishments of eight co-operative and non-profit housing providers and announcing support for an additional nine affordable housing projects in Ottawa.

The ceremony took place at a new co-operative housing project built by McLean Co-operative Homes. With 63 apartments and townhomes, the Parkin Circle project provides three fully-accessible units for people with disabilities, 28 one-bedroom apartments for seniors and 32 two and three-bedroom homes for recent immigrants and families.

"We've made significant accomplishments in the development of affordable housing, in Ottawa and across the province, and National Housing Day is a time to acknowledge and celebrate that," said Minister Jim Watson, as he presented recognition plaques to project sponsors. "It's also a time to acknowledge that more needs to be done and to reaffirm our commitment to work together to develop a long term affordable housing strategy that works for the people of Ontario."

McLean Co-operative Homes, Inc. was named after John and Sue McLean. As residents and advocates of co-operative housing in Ottawa, the McLeans were dedicated to furthering the work of Co-operative Housing Association of Eastern Ontario (CHASEO). They were also the inspiration for CHASEO's annual award for Outstanding Service to the Co-op Housing Movement in Eastern Ontario.

A Safe, Affordable Place to Live

Karen Harbocian, Founding President of McLean Co-operative Homes, said, "People with disabilities, singles, seniors and families now have a safe, affordable place in which to live as a result of the partnership among all three levels of government and the Board of McLean Co-operative Homes."

The additional nine projects in Ottawa will create more than 352 new affordable rental units with over \$19.5 million in funding under the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

In total, the projects will receive over \$15 million in municipal financial contributions, including property tax savings, from the City of Ottawa.

"The Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program has supported the development of over 650 affordable housing units in our community," said Councillor Diane Deans. "I am pleased to mark National Housing Day by committing with my federal and provincial colleagues to continue this important work."

The [Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program](#) comprises a commitment of \$301 million each from the federal and provincial governments. In total, the federal, provincial and municipal governments will invest at least \$734 million in the program, which will provide affordable housing for up to 20,000 households in Ontario.

Related Links

- [Federal, Provincial and Municipal Partners Recognize National Housing Day](#)



Ed Komarnicki, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Ottawa City Councillor Diane Deans and Minister Jim Watson presented a plaque to McLean Co-operative Homes Board Members Peter Trotscha, Karen Harbocian and Wayne Robinson at a National Housing Day event in Ottawa.

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Municipal Internship Program's inaugural year ends on high note

Seven young Ontarians have successfully completed one-year internships under the [Municipal Internship Program](#).

John Burke, former Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, presented commemorative pins to each of the successful interns at this year's Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) annual conference.

The Municipal Internship Program is a partnership of the Ministry, AMCTO and FedNor. It works with host municipalities to introduce young people with post-graduate degrees to careers in local government.

Getting an Edge

"The Municipal Internship Program is a hands-on introduction to municipal management and administration," says Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Jim Watson. "It gives the interns an edge over most of us, who have had to learn on the job."

During the internship year, participants gain experience in municipal business areas and departments under the supervision of a municipal Chief Administrative Officer. They also spend a month with a Ministry Municipal Service Office to learn about provincial-municipal interaction and business relationships.

The one-year stint earns credits toward the AMCTO Certified Municipal Officer professional designation.

Five of the 2007-2008 interns have accepted positions in government.

Three are now with Ontario municipalities:

- Brianna Coughlin, who completed her internship with the Municipality of Oliver Papoung, is the new CAO of Prince Township
- Victoria Ghandour, who interned with the City of Waterloo, is the new Deputy Clerk of Wilmot Township, and
- Kyle Pratt, who interned with Hastings County, is the new Deputy Clerk of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming.

Valuable Guidance and Mentorship

"The AMCTO Internship Program was a great opportunity to work in a variety of municipal departments. These valuable experiences have helped me in my current position," says Brianna Coughlin. "Not only do I have a better understanding of the needs of various municipal departments, I also have a good working relationship with many other municipal and provincial administrators that I can turn to for help."

Victoria Ghandour also found the program valuable. "The experience definitely gave me great exposure and an 'edge' on how to navigate, mitigate and take advantage of the challenges and opportunities that municipalities face."

Kyle Pratt wants to say thank you for an excellent opportunity that he feels has advanced his career. "My greatest memory of the Internship program is the valuable guidance and mentorship that I received from staff at Hastings County, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario."

The program's second year is now underway with seven participants in 2008-09.

Related Links:

- [Preparing Future Leaders for Ontario's Municipalities](#)



John Burke, former Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, (centre) with former interns James Anderson, Jessica Weel, Victoria Ghandour, Kyle Pratt, Lucia Salazar, Brianna Coughlin and Gang Wang.



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New Initiative Supports Off-Reserve Communities

Aboriginal peoples in the Greater Toronto Area will have greater access to affordable housing with support from the Ontario government.

Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Jim Watson and Miziwe Biik Development Corporation (MBDC) President Nancy Martin signed a Memorandum of Understanding on November 26th under which MBDC will administer a \$20-million housing program. It will provide affordable housing for over 300 low-income Aboriginal households living off-reserve.

Remarkable Partnership

Under the program, housing support will be provided through new affordable rental units, homeownership loans and home repairs.

"I'm really proud of the remarkable partnership we've developed with Aboriginal communities through this initiative, which will truly help off-reserve families with their housing needs," said Minister Watson.

At the MOU signing, MBDC President Martin spoke about how Aboriginal organizations led extensive consultations about the affordable housing needs of Aboriginal people in the GTA. These helped guide how the housing program will be structured.

Ms. Martin also thanked Ministry staff for their support throughout the process of developing a housing program in which Aboriginal housing will be directly administered by Aboriginal people.

"This has provided new hope to our community members - hope that through access to affordable housing, they can start to get their families out of the cycle of poverty that has such a devastating impact on every aspect of their lives, from health to education to employment," she said.

Provincial Program

The GTA housing program is part of the government's \$80-million commitment to provide housing assistance for off-reserve Aboriginal families across Ontario.

Aboriginal organizations recently completed community consultations on off-reserve housing supports for the rest of the province and provided the Ontario government with recommendations.

Details of the provincial program should be finalized in the near future.

Related Links:

- [McGuinty Government Supports Off-Reserve Communities In GTA](#)
- [The McGuinty Government's Progress on Aboriginal Affairs](#)



Angus Toulouse, Ontario Regional Chief, Chiefs of Ontario; Nancy Martin, President of Miziwe Biik Development Corporation; Shylo Summers, President, Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre; John Marsh, President, Nishnawbe Homes; George Smitherman, Deputy Premier, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure; Minister Jim Watson; and Brad Duguid, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, participated in the signing ceremony last month.

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14 Recognized for Years of Service

Fourteen municipal officials were honoured with Long-standing Service Awards at last month's Ontario West Annual Conference in London.

The awardees, each with at least 25 years in public office, were:

- John Adams, Mayor of Leamington
- Roland Anstett, Deputy Mayor of Brockton
- William Bilton, Mayor of Dawn-Euphemia
- Joe Faas, Councillor from Chatham-Kent
- Howard Greig, Mayor of Chatsworth
- Jamie Hahn, Mayor of St. Marys
- Ted Higgins, Councillor from North Dumfries
- Ross Kelterborn, Mayor of Wellesley
- Carol Lawrence, Councillor from West Grey
- Robert Lennox, Councillor from Georgian Bluffs
- Milt McIver, Mayor of Northern Bruce Peninsula and Warden of Bruce County
- Steve Miller, Councillor from St. Clair Township
- Gerald Shortt, Councillor from Meaford, and
- Leslea Williams, Deputy Mayor of Dawn-Euphenia.



With Minister Watson (centre) are Long-standing Service Award recipients Howard Greig, Ted Higgins, Joe Faas, Ross Kelterborn, Robert Lennox, Gerald Shortt, Leslea Williams, Jamie Hahn, Carol Lawrence, Roland Anstett, William Bilton, Steve Miller, John Adams and Milt McIver.

[Long-standing Service Awards](#) recognize the dedication of elected municipal officials with at least 25 years of service. Another award recognizes municipal officials with 50 years of service.

Largest Group

"After this presentation we may have to order a new batch of pins," says Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Jim Watson. "This is the largest group of Long-Standing Service Award recipients since the program began."

Since 2004, 140 elected municipal officials have received 25-year Long-standing Service Awards and two have received 50-year pins.

Related Links:

- [Long-standing Service Awards](#)

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