



NEWS RELEASE

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GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY IN VICTORIA

VICTORIA – Construction of a new \$50-million residential care facility is one step closer to reality with the official groundbreaking ceremony for the project held today on the building site of the future Selkirk Place seniors' care residence in Victoria.

The Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) will publicly fund 185 residential care beds at \$10 million annually and 25 assisted living units at \$334,000 annually for rent and hospitality.

“By the summer of 2008, many local seniors who require long-term care will be able to call this new facility their “home,” announced Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services and Minister Responsible for Seniors' & Women's Issues. “As part of our government's commitment to create 5000 new beds and units for British Columbia seniors by 2008, this facility will help ensure the best quality of life possible for residents requiring complex care, and meet current provincial standards.”

Jointly developed by the Lark Group and the Ahmon Group, the residential care component of the new facility will offer private rooms and provide 24/7 health care services for individuals with complex care needs. The assisted living units are self-contained apartments where residents receive meals, housekeeping and laundry services, a 24-hour response system and assistance with medications.

“Enhancing access to seniors' care is a top priority for the Vancouver Island Health Authority, particularly in Victoria where we have a large seniors population,” said Jac Kreut, VIHA Board Chair. “By working in partnership with the community, local government and the Province, we are significantly increasing our community care capacity, which will help reduce pressure on our hospitals and the emergency departments in the South Island.”

(more)

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Page 1 of 2

“Selkirk Place will provide high quality long-term care to Victoria seniors while still ensuring all of the comforts of home,” said Michael Ahmon, CEO of the Ahmon Group. “Our residents will be provided with full meal services, health care, exercise and entertainment activities, as well as the opportunity to access the many other amenities located nearby.”

These new units are part of the British Columbia Government’s commitment to provide 5,000 net-new residential care beds, assisted living units, and supportive housing with home support units by the end of 2008. To date, 8,494 new and replacement beds and units have been built, including 3,196 net-new.

The contract to build and operate Selkirk Place (and Stanford Place seniors’ residence in Parksville) was awarded to the Ahmon Group and Lark Group in July 2006. The Ahmon Group has owned and operated long-term care facilities in the Lower Mainland for over 30 years, including several facilities under contract with the Fraser Health Authority. As a service provider they are committed to providing quality individualized care and support for adults with complex health needs within a residential setting.

– 30 –

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