

Media Release

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WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF NEW RESIDENTIAL HOMES AT CANADA'S FIRST HOSPICE VILLAGE

WINDSOR, April 16, 2006 -Over five hundred community supporters, local officials, along with, the Minister of Health George Smitherman, Windsor MPPs Dwight Duncan and Sandra Pupatello celebrated the opening of the Hospice of Windsor and Essex County's beautiful new Residential Homes with music, confetti and fanfare.

"We are grateful to the ongoing support of our donors and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term care who are helping us help support, educate and empower those in our community with a life-threatening illness," said Carol Derbyshire, executive director of The Hospice of Windsor and Essex County, Inc.

Over a million dollars per year from fundraising initiatives and donations will be needed to operate the existing programs and services and additional day-to day costs for the residential homes by Canada's largest and oldest community-based hospice.

The new 2.3 million dollar residential homes and the Hospice Village are the result of an impressive community capital fundraising campaign. Donors in Windsor and Essex County have pledged 4 million dollars toward the construction of Hospice Village of which 2.5 half million dollars has been collected to date.

M.P.P. for Windsor-St. Clair Dwight Duncan announced a one-time funding grant of 1.15 million dollars towards the cost of the Residential Homes. "Our government is extremely proud to be able to support the Hospice," said Dwight Duncan, provincial member of Parliament for Windsor-Tecumseh. "I'm also very proud of the broad community support the Hospice has received - it shows the strong compassion and care our community has for those in need."

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is providing 5 hundred thousand dollars in base funding specifically for personal support and nursing services in the residential homes is coming from through the Erie St. Clair Community Care Access Centre (CCAC). A team of trained Hospice volunteers will also play a very important role in the homes by providing patient care assistance, reception, food preparation, housekeeping, gardening and maintenance.

George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care also commended the community effort, "Our government is proud to partner with the Hospice of Windsor and Essex County to support patients with comfortable end-of-life care," said George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. "Today represents a significant achievement, thanks to the work and dedication of people in the community. The hospice's residences are places of warmth, compassion and dignity, where patients receive quality care in a home-like environment."

Beginning April 30th, eligible residents facing a life-threatening illness will receive 24-hour, care at the latest additions to Canada's first Hospice Village. The Hospice Village provides an entire range of compassionate care and services on one site for patients, families and caregivers from the point of pre-diagnosis through the palliative stage. The village includes the residential homes, a 20,00- square foot Wellness Centre and headquarters, a Pain and Symptom Management Clinic, and soon-to-come children's house which will offer programs for youngsters who have a loved one affected by a life-threatening illness.

Each room in residential homes features sun-lit rooms with fireplaces, separate heat controls, garden views and wireless Internet service. A nearby kitchen, dining room and living room offers a change of pace and a place for residents and families to enjoy meals, music, TV or conversation.

The modern style single-storey dwellings are connected by three hallways, which face outwards to garden areas. Gail and Don Rodzik, Marwan and Nadia Taqtaq, Anita Imperioli, Teresa Silvestri and Nora Fazio of *In Honour of the Ones We Love* are lead donors who have each named a wing of the home.

Engaging art, soft yellows and soothing green walls, along with, comfortable classical furniture create a comfortable and relaxed home setting.

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About Hospice: Founded in 1979, the Hospice of Windsor and Essex County is the largest community-based palliative care facility in Canada. To date, our innovative programs and services have supported and educated more than 30,000 people. For more information about our services please visit www.thehospice.ca

