



CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

PROJECT PROFILE

McIntyre House

Souris, Prince Edward Island

An RCMP barracks that was no longer needed in Souris, P.E.I. became a new home for men with developmental disabilities.

Since 1980, McIntyre House has provided a home and life skills training to men with developmental disabilities in this rural community on Prince Edward Island's eastern tip. In 2002, it needed extensive repairs. The Souris Group Home Association, which operates the residence, began considering alternatives to costly renovations—at the same time that the RCMP vacated the barracks in the centre of Souris.

The Affordable Housing Solution

The Souris Group Home Association decided that renovating the RCMP building—which was in relatively good condition—was a better option than building a new home or renovating the old building. Under the Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative, the Association acquired the building—valued at \$91,000—at no cost. The Association received an interest-free CMHC

Highlights

Renovations to a vacated RCMP building create affordable supportive housing for adult men with developmental disabilities and support needs.

Client group: Adult men who have developmental disabilities and are homeless

Developer: Souris Group Home Association

Number of units: Seven

Tenure: Rental

Who was involved? Souris Group Home Association, CMHC, government of Prince Edward Island, government of Canada, Eastern Kings Health Region, the community.

Proposal Development Funding loan to help cover upfront expenses to develop their proposal.

As the Souris Group Home Association upgraded and retrofitted the RCMP building, the people of Souris rallied around. The parish priest quit smoking, took up running and ran a marathon to raise \$28,000. A potato farmer gave the project a cheque for \$5,000 and service clubs held fundraising events.

Completed in 2004, the newly renovated building has seven units and provides

residents with a home environment. The home also offers life skills training to help residents work towards more independent lives. Six of the units provide supportive housing for men with cognitive disabilities. One of these units has accessibility features for a resident with physical disabilities. The seventh unit is set aside for short-term housing in case of an emergency or for respite care. Among the many advantages to the project's new location is its proximity to the Harbour View Training Centre, where most of the residents work.

McIntyre House received funding from several government programs. Through the Affordable Housing Initiative, CMHC and the province of Prince Edward Island contributed \$55,100. McIntyre House also received \$168,000 from CMHC's Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) and \$183,200 from the Canada/PE.I. Labour Market Development Agreement. The residence receives operating support from the Eastern Kings Health Region.

CMHC Contact

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Additional Information

CMHC new release (official project opening)

<http://www.cmhc.ca/en/corp/nero/nere/2004/2004-09-18-1300.cfm>

Human Resources and Social Development Canada, Homelessness Partnering Strategy, Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative

http://www.homelessness.gc.ca/initiative/sfrphi_e.asp