

May 6, 2010

## **Red Deer and area seniors to benefit from additional accommodation spaces**

*Red Deer...* Red Deer seniors will benefit from 100 new affordable accommodation spaces to meet their needs, thanks to new provincial funding from Alberta Capital Bonds and the Affordable Supportive Living Initiative (ASLI).

The province has committed \$10 million to Covenant Health to help build the new spaces at a new proposed facility for Red Deer.

“The province is helping Alberta seniors access accommodations that meet their personal care needs and helps couples to continue living together as they age,” said Premier Ed Stelmach. “By increasing the supply of affordable accommodation spaces with flexible care levels, the Alberta government is helping provide more options for seniors to remain as independent as possible while addressing their changing health and accommodations needs.”

“I’m proud that this new provincial funding will help build and update more than 1,000 new and updated spaces across Alberta, with 100 right here in Red Deer,” said Mary Anne Jablonski, Minister of Seniors and Community Supports. “This funding reflects this government’s priority on preparing for an aging population, in part by helping more seniors to stay longer in the communities they helped to build.”

Increasing the supply of affordable spaces for seniors will create additional capacity in Alberta’s hospitals and emergency departments by providing alternative spaces for seniors to move into that will better meet their needs.

“Financing the construction of this new facility through capital bonds and ASLI is an innovative way of providing Red Deer seniors the choice and flexibility they want, and ought to have, to age in their own community,” said Ray Danyluk, Minister of Infrastructure.

The funding for the new spaces across the province includes \$55 million from Alberta Capital Bonds investments and \$50 million from the provincially funded ASLI program. This will be leveraged with additional investments from the private and not-for profit sectors.

With this funding, the province has invested approximately \$520 million towards developing and upgrading close to 9,500 affordable accommodation spaces with a variety of care levels since 1999.

The Covenant Health project is part of the Government of Alberta’s \$7.2 billion investment in public infrastructure for 2010-2011 that will strengthen the economy, help keep Albertans working and provide core public services to maintain a high quality of life.

More information on the 13 seniors' accommodations projects being supported through Alberta Capital Bonds and ASLI is available at <http://www.infrastructure.alberta.ca/3619.htm>.

The Government of Alberta has a clear plan for a strong economic recovery. *The Way Forward* will bring Alberta back into a surplus position in three years by trimming government spending; using cash reserves to protect key programs; continuing to invest in public infrastructure; and ensuring that our province's industries are competitive and continue to attract investment to provide jobs and prosperity. For more information on the plan visit [Alberta.ca](http://Alberta.ca).

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**Backgrounder:** Project details

**Media inquiries may be directed to:**

Robert Storrier, Communications  
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780-422-7632

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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## Covenant Health project in Red Deer

<b>Community</b>	Red Deer
<b>Project name</b>	Covenant Health Red Deer Project
<b>Project address</b>	To be determined
<b>Project proponent</b>	Covenant Health
<b>Number and type of spaces</b>	100 affordable supportive living spaces
<b>Provincial funding</b>	\$10 million
<b>Type of project</b>	New construction of supportive living spaces

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