

NEWS RELEASE

New Funding for Assisted Living Housing in SE Manitoba

September 15, 2023 (Vassar, Manitoba): The Timberline Community Housing Project just got another step closer to its vision for a 20-room assisted living housing community located in Sprague, Manitoba. The board of South East Community Services Co-operative (SECSC) was informed on July 31, 2023 of their successful application to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Seed Funding Program with a grant of \$40,100.

Of the \$4.8 million projected budget for the facility (2020 estimate), the CMHC Seed Funding Grant will be applied to site and code review, preliminary architectural design, and project costing. The deadline to complete the work is December 31, 2023 and the board is confident in being able to achieve that milestone with consultants already having been sourced and confirmed.

These initiatives will give SECSC the tools it needs to pursue further funding options. The project relies 100% on funding from grants, government (provincial/federal), non-governmental organizations, and fundraising. The preliminary design schematics will also provide a visual representation of the new facility, allowing southeast Manitoba residents to see this shared vision as a near-term reality.

"This much-appreciated funding provided by the Government of Canada will help the Timberline Community Housing project advance one step closer to construction," explained SECSC president Martin Van Osch. "This grant backs a valuable grassroots initiative which will allow residents of southeast Manitoba to age in place while remaining close to family, friends and community support. This is a shared vision 20 years in the making that is now one step closer to reality as a result of many dedicated volunteer hours and strong community support."

East Borderland Community Housing, a registered charity based in Sprague, has been working tirelessly for 20 years to provide housing options for seniors and other residents in need of assistance for daily living. They provided the initial funding to restructure the effort from a non-profit volunteer group to a co-operative and continue to champion the project.

The SECSC board is grateful for the funding and technical support provided to the Timberline Housing Community project from Cooperatives First, Cooperators Foundation and Manitoba Cooperative Association. These organizations have seen the value of the project, providing grants and training to get the SECSC board formalized, develop a business plan, conduct market research, provide marketing tools such as a website and brochure, and create a membership recruitment and engagement strategy.

This Timberline Community Housing Project received funding from CMHC, however, the views expressed are the personal views of the SECSC and CMHC accepts no responsibility for them.

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South East Community Services Co-operative

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About Timberline Community Housing

Timberline Community Housing will be a 20-room assisted living housing community located on Treaty 3 territory in Sprague, Manitoba, planned to open in 2025. The facility caters to aging adults who can no longer live independently (or choose not to) but prefer an alternative to a personal care home.

Timberline will be owned by the South East Community Services Co-operative, with a board of directors elected from co-operative members, that will be responsible for the strategic direction of the co-op.

About South East Community Services Co-operative

The SECSC, formed in 2020, started as a partnership of East Borderland Community Housing (EBCH), Piney Regional Chamber of Commerce and Rural Municipality of Piney. After 20 years of dedicated fundraising and advocacy by EBCH, implementing a co-operative organizational structure is an innovative way to approach the challenge of providing affordable housing. The SECSC board is now made up of a diverse group of co-operative members from the region with an interest in developing and maintaining affordable housing and other services within southeast Manitoba for seniors and our more vulnerable populations to benefit the entire community.

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