

Strong Communities

March 6, 2009

Calgary Hospice Centre receives support for renovations

Calgary... The Alberta government is helping with renovations to the Hospice Calgary Outreach and Education Centre. The centre provides compassionate support, educational workshops, school grief programs, seminars and professional consultation to more than 4,800 teens and adults each year.

“I want to thank volunteers and community members for their support and dedication to this very worthwhile project,” said Lindsay Blackett, Minister of Culture and Community Spirit. “The funds provided to Hospice Calgary will help to ensure that their important services continue for many more years to come.”

Hospice Calgary has two centres of care which provide complete programs and services from the time of terminal diagnosis to the time of death and through bereavement, sometimes even years after a loss. The Rosedale Hospice is a facility that allows cancer patients to spend time with their loved ones in a tranquil, supportive environment. The Outreach and Education Centre provides counseling and group programs on-site or in the home.

“This contribution has made it possible for Hospice Calgary to achieve our dream of a permanent home for our Outreach and Education Centre,” said Jeffrey Vallis, Board Chairperson of Hospice Calgary. “In addition, the impact of this grant goes beyond the actual dollars donated - it has allowed corporations and individuals to leverage their donations. As a charitable organization operating in these uncertain economic times, we are so grateful for the support of the provincial government.”

Funds provided will go towards the purchase and renovation of an existing office building, which will become the permanent home of the Outreach and Education Centre. Renovations will include upgrading of the existing kitchen, customization of space for programs and services, alterations to electrical systems and a new exterior door and ramp.

The Alberta government is providing more than \$1.58 million towards the project. Funds are from the Major Community Facilities Program (MCFP). Started in 2007-08, the MCFP is a two-year \$280-million lottery-funded program which helps municipalities, not-for-profit organizations and Aboriginal communities plan, upgrade or build major public-use facilities that enhance community life. The funds were provided on a matching basis, meaning a great deal of community support was required to make the grant possible.

The Government of Alberta has a wide variety of community investment programs that are working to create stronger and safer communities. For more information, visit www.culture.alberta.ca.

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