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## NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Housing and Social Development  
City of Victoria

### **B.C. INVESTS \$27.4M IN HOUSING FOR HOMELESS IN VICTORIA**

VICTORIA – The Province is providing \$27.4 million for two new supportive housing developments, creating 272 jobs in Victoria, Housing and Social Development Minister Rich Coleman announced today.

“Our government is helping British Columbians who are dealing with homelessness by creating jobs and building resources to support future growth and housing opportunities,” said Coleman. “Through partnerships, we are delivering on our commitment to provide shelter and supports that will help mobilize people to become healthy and achieve independence.”

The first site, at 525 Ellice St., officially broke ground today and is estimated to have a total capital cost of \$16.1 million. It will provide 83 shelter beds, 20 extreme weather response beds, 23 transitional housing units and two emergency family shelter units and will integrate support services with housing to help people move beyond temporary shelter to more secure housing, greater self-reliance and appropriate employment. The building has been designed to allow the future conversion of shelter rooms into more permanent housing.

“Providing housing options for some of our most vulnerable community members is a top priority for the City of Victoria,” said Victoria Mayor Dean Fortin. “Today’s groundbreaking is evidence of how important it is that government and community work together to put an end to homelessness.”

Victoria Cool Aid Society (Cool Aid) will manage and operate the Ellice Street development, assisting both emergency shelter and transitional housing clients to access the resources and services they need, such as finding housing and employment, developing financial and other life skills, and accessing physical and mental health services. Their experienced support staff will work closely with individual participants to develop personal action plans designed to help them both stabilize and move forward with their lives.

“We advocate for and provide emergency shelter, supportive housing and integrated health-care service to vulnerable adults in the Victoria area,” said Kathy Stinson, executive director for Cool Aid. “Our partnership with the Province and the City of Victoria will further enable us to work towards our mission of providing much needed support to people who are marginalized, homeless and often seen as hard to house.”

The second site, at 950 Humboldt St., is estimated to have a total capital cost of \$11.2 million. It will provide approximately 43 housing units with integrated support services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and will be managed by Pacifica Housing Advisory Association. Construction is expected to begin in May. Both developments are part of the Memorandum of Understanding announced by the Province and the City of Victoria in January 2008.

These projects are part of an overall \$14-billion capital infrastructure program supported by the Province that will create up to 88,000 jobs and help build vital public infrastructure in every region of B.C.

The Province has committed to creating more than 4,000 new housing units under the Provincial Homelessness Initiative.

'Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness' is a website providing a comprehensive and detailed look at provincial programs and services to address homelessness. Visit [www.bchousing.org/breakingthecycle](http://www.bchousing.org/breakingthecycle) for more information.

Contact:	Patricia Lusic BC Housing 604 314-1458	Katie Josephson City of Victoria 250 361-0210 250 217-8343
	Kathy Stinson Victoria Cool Aid Society 250 383-1977 250 812-6480	

1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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