

News Release

For immediate release: 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 27, 2016

New sprinklers being installed at Rotary House ***Retrofit of fire suppression system important safety upgrade***

Fort McMurray – The Wood Buffalo Housing & Development Corporation (WBHDC) is pleased to announce that installation of a fire suppression sprinkler system is underway at Rotary House Lodge.

“I’m very pleased that the Government of Alberta continues to recognize seniors’ safety is a top priority,” said Maggie Farrington, WBHDC Chair. “Installation of these sprinklers is an important renovation to help Rotary House comply with current building safety codes.”

The Province announced new funding in March to upgrade 75 government-owned or supported seniors’ lodges between 2015-18, improving fire-associated safety in 4,700 units across Alberta. The funding also included upgrades to all 1,750 government-owned or supported continuing care spaces in 30 facilities that currently do not have sprinklers.

Many of the 24,000 government-owned and supported seniors’ apartment and lodge units in Alberta were built prior to 1990, before fire sprinklers became mandatory under fire and building safety codes. Retrofitting the 39 units at Rotary House is a commitment of WBHDC to ensure the safety of our seniors in Fort McMurray. Work commenced in early September and is projected to be concluded at the end of November.

Funding for this project primarily comes from the financial reserves of the Alberta Social Housing Corporation.

WBHDC became responsible on behalf of the Government of Alberta in 2002 for all subsidized seniors’ housing in the Wood Buffalo region, including Rotary House. Rotary House combines independent living with the support of 24-hour residential service aides, a recreation coordinator, kitchen staff, and other services. Lodge residents live privately in their own suites but have access to common areas for dining, social activities and other activities catered to retirement lifestyles.

Celebrating its 15th Anniversary in 2016, the Wood Buffalo Housing & Development Corporation has helped more than 7,000 individuals, families and seniors of low to modest incomes find affordable housing in Wood Buffalo.

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