



United Counties of
Leeds and Grenville
25 Central Ave. W., Suite 100
Brockville, ON K6V 4N6
T 613-342-3840
800-770-2170
F 613-342-2101
www.leedsgrenville.com

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Affordable Housing Units developed in North Grenville

KEMPTVILLE — People in urgent need of housing will soon have access to more affordable options being created through a multi-level government project.

Officials unveiled plans today for the Kemptville Court House Apartments, a 10-unit project to expand affordable housing options in the Municipality of North Grenville. The former court house municipal building at 15 Water Street will be renovated into bachelor as well as two- and three-bedroom apartments.

“The Municipality of North Grenville’s partnership with the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville is a wonderful example of working together to better respond to the urgent needs of residents in North Grenville and beyond,” said North Grenville Mayor Nancy Peckford, adding the Funding is through the Province of Ontario’s Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF).

“North Grenville’s Council embraced the opportunity to re-purpose a building that had significant sentimental value to the community, but was no longer fully usable. It is our hope that we can build on this success through the pursuit of some related initiatives down the road,” the Mayor said.

North Grenville is providing a long-term lease of the property to the Counties for \$1. The Counties Community and Social Services Department is the project lead in repurposing the building under SSRF guidelines.

“Supporting innovative solutions like these new affordable supportive housing units in Kemptville is critical as we work to keep our most vulnerable safe and housed, both during the pandemic and into the future,” said Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and MPP for Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes.

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"Our government's Social Services Relief Fund is providing immediate housing and homelessness relief in communities across Ontario," the Minister said at the event.

The province is providing more than \$1.3-Million to help convert the property into seven bachelor, one two-bedroom and two one-bedroom apartments. Residents will be close to downtown amenities such as the library, parks, grocery stores, pharmacies, employment opportunities, and schools. The project is at stage one – demolition of the interior. The targeted renovation completion date is the end of 2022 / early 2023

"The Joint Services Committee has been looking at ways to provide additional housing in the region and the municipal court house is a good fit," said Counties Joint Services Committee Chair Corinna Smith-Gatcke, Mayor of Leeds and the Thousand Islands.

"Staff will be working with community agencies to establish partnerships to support the needs of future tenants," said Ms. Smith-Gatcke.

The Counties is very conscious of limiting climate change impacts from its operations. The building redesign will incorporate high-efficiency, on-demand products to limit operational costs and environmental impacts. Two units will be barrier free with accessible entrances.

"This is an excellent example of levels of government working together to support the needs of residents in their communities," said Counties Warden Roger Haley. "United Counties staff are very committed to supporting the most vulnerable of our residents."

Warden Haley recognized the work of Alison Tutak, Director of Community & Social Services, Chris Morrison, Manager of Social Housing, and Dave Powers, Facilities Supervisor.

This is the fifth Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) round that will add to rent banks and create long-term housing solutions in response to increased need for services during COVID-19. This includes \$724,400 to the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, which brings the total SSRF allocation to the Counties since March 2020 to over \$6.7 million.

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Media inquiries:

Alison Tutak, Director of Community and Social Services
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
25 Central Avenue West, Brockville
ON, K6V 4R9
613-342-3840, ext. 2305 or alison.tutak@uclg.on.ca

Zoe Knowles, Director of Communications,
Office of the Hon. Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
437-335-6174 or Zoe.Knowles@ontario.ca

Renee Jackson
Constituency Assistant
renee.jackson@pc.ola.org