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# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Affordable Housing Project Step Closer to Reality

**Charlottetown** – With the successful passing of a Charlottetown City Council Resolution to transfer a former City Garage property to the Kiwanis Club of Charlottetown, a 22 unit Affordable Housing project, "**Zakem House**" is one major step closer to reality.



"This land transfer really was the final major piece of the puzzle to be put into place" said Mark Belfry, the Chair of the Affordable Housing Committee. "With this land transfer, we are now able to approach the financial institutions leveraging this land, as well as the contributions of our Club, and the Federal and Provincial governments, to secure the remaining funding"

The Affordable Housing Project has been an idea of the Kiwanis Club of Charlottetown for nearly four years. Through a community needs assessment, the Club initially envisioned providing some means of assistance to senior citizens to allow them to remain in their neighbourhoods for a longer period, at a reasonable cost. That concept later expanded to include provision of assistance to other citizens in the community in need of affordable housing. This new vision, coupled with the desire to support the revitalization of downtown Charlottetown, culminated in the Kiwanis Club's Affordable Housing Project. The Club has committed \$250,000 as seed money to enable this project to proceed. The concept has also gained financial support from all three levels of Government.

Zakem House will house 16 one-bedroom and 6 two-bedroom apartments and include on-site amenities such as parking, laundry, a security system and a common area for the use of the tenants. It will operate as an independent not-for-profit entity, based upon a model of self-sustenance and non-subsidization. The \$1.5 million facility is scheduled for construction in early spring 2004, to be ready for occupancy in the fall of 2004.

"This project really epitomizes the ideals of Kiwanis", said Denise Doiron, President of the Club. "It speaks to keeping families together, revitalizing communities, and lending a hand where it is most needed. Our Club is truly honoured to be able to provide leadership and financial support on this project".