

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Premier Klein and Mayor Mandel Unveil Alzheimer Care Facility *Shepherd's Care Foundation Kensington Cottages provides full care for low to moderate income seniors*

Edmonton, AB – Friday, April 7, 2006, Shepherd's Care Foundation held a grand opening ceremony for Kensington Cottages, a community of cottage-like facilities offering care to residents with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. In attendance were Premier Ralph Klein, Mayor Stephen Mandel, Bill Burch of Capital Health, a representative of the Alzheimer Society of Alberta & NWT and President of the Shepherd's Care Foundation John Pray.

To commemorate the grand opening of Kensington Cottages and the 35th anniversary of Shepherd's Care Foundation, Premier Klein and Mayor Mandel unveiled a quilt that was created by the hands of the residents of the Cottages. Just like any piece of art, each quilt square has its own unique story. The centre blocks at the top represent the three founding churches and the present members of the Board of Directors of the Foundation. Also included are quilt blocks by Premier Klein and Mayor Mandel. The final assembly of the quilt was completed by Nettie Marshall, who is one of the volunteers from the Millwoods Care Centre.

Offering full care in a campus setting, Kensington Cottages represents the final step in the foundation's implementation of true age-in-place care for residents of low to moderate income. "As our population ages, we find more cases of dementia," says John Pray. "But there are fewer people at home—fewer spouses, fewer sons and daughters—to take care of relatives with dementia. Kensington Cottages will provide care for residents with early to mid stage dementia.

The opening of Kensington Cottages will provide care in a home-like residential setting where residents and their family can feel as comfortable and safe as possible.

Alzheimer & Dementia Facts

- Over 35,000 people in Alberta have some form of dementia, with over 23,000 of those having Alzheimer's disease
- By 2001, new cases of dementia are expected to reach 111,560 per year across Canada
- 40% of at-home caregivers (i.e., spouses, children) for those with moderate dementia report depression
- Every year in Canada, nearly \$5.5B is spent on persons with dementia

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