

Covering the news from the Counties of Lamont, Minburn, Beaver and Two Hills as well as the Towns of Vegreville and Vermilion, Alberta  
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**FREE**

## Breaking Ground For New Lodge



A number of dignitaries from multiple levels of government, along with Vermilion Valley Lodge residents and their family and friends gathered on May 18 to share in the official ground-breaking of the new modernization upgrade of the seniors housing facility. Picture here are, in front from the left, Sheri Heller, Helen Golinowski, Albert Towell, County of Vermilion River Reeve Daryl Watt and Minister of Seniors and Housing Lori Sigurdson. In behind are Town of Vermilion Mayor Bruce MacDuff and Vermilion-Lloydminster MLA Dr. Richard Starke.

Angela Mouly,  
Vermilion Voice Reporter

The Vermilion and District Housing Foundation hosted a Ground-breaking Ceremony on May 18 for their renovations at the Vermilion Valley Lodge.

Alberta Minister of Seniors and Housing Lori Sigurdson, shared some staggering facts about seniors in Alberta.

"There are currently 15,000 families on waiting lists for affordable seniors housing in Alberta and with a billion dollars of needed maintenance, many seniors aren't able to age in their community. Seniors built this province and deserve to have a place to live in their community," said Sigurdson who says she knows the importance of having safe, affordable housing having spent 25 years as a social worker.

Sigurdson said she also recognizes the importance of seniors, having grown up in rural Alberta (Valleyview), and noted that the lodge was a cornerstone of their community, and was pleased to come support the build project in Vermilion. According to Sigurdson, the Alberta government has committed \$1.2 billion over five years to complete 40 affordable seniors housing projects across the province and \$200 million into homecare.



Minister Lori Sigurdson

The federal and provincial governments have supplied \$10.2 million dollars to the Vermilion Valley Lodge Project. With a design cost of \$14.1 million, the lodge will require a \$2.45 million loan and \$1.5 million in fundraising. The committee has so far raised \$600,000.

"The renovation is really needed; we need to upgrade the facilities in the community so that we are able to continue housing seniors here in comfort and safety. This is the most exciting thing for seniors in our community in a lot of years," said Vermilion Valley Lodge CAO, Sheri Heller.

MP, Richard Starke expressed how wonderful the day was for the community as the Vermilion and Lloydminster lodges are among two of the oldest in the province and their renovations will allow seniors to stay in the community with the people they love. He noted the importance of allowing couples to stay together in the same facility, and providing better lives for our seniors to whom we owe so much.

County of Vermilion River Reeve,

Daryl Watt, said that for every 80 cents the government put in, supporters in the community contributed 20 cents. He said that the current rooms had used up their useful life cycle, and that the new facility is expected to be beautiful.

"It's such a godsend to have seniors stay in our community," said Watt.

Mayor, Bruce MacDuff reminded

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Residents, staff and visitors to the Vermilion Valley Lodge were treated to beverages and snacks supplied and served by the Vermilion Credit Union, following the ground-breaking ceremony. Pictured here is Vermilion Credit Union CEO David Eremko serving tea and coffee to some of the residents.