

## A SAFE HAVEN FOR WOMEN IN GUELPH

*McGuinty Government Helps Provide A New Home For Women Fleeing Violence*

### NEWS

May 12, 2008

Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis will soon be moving their counselling and support services to a new home.

Ontario is giving the local women's organization \$802,000 to move to a larger and more accessible building. The new building will allow the agency to:

- serve more women, especially women with disabilities or women whose children have a disability, and
- increase support services, such as access to temporary housing and counselling.

The funds are part of a \$7.4-million [provincial investment](#) in community groups that help victims of domestic abuse. These investments will help local organizations serve more women and children while improving the accessibility, safety and security of their properties.

### QUOTES

"It's so important for women who are escaping abuse to have a safe place to go for help," said [Minister of Community and Social Services Madeleine Meilleur](#). "That's a time when they should be focusing on themselves and their children – not on whether they can get into the building because they have a wheelchair."

"The services and supports we provide offer women safe options and an opportunity to begin to rebuild their lives," said Executive Director of Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis Sly Castaldi. "Having a new building means we increase accessibility and resources for women who come to our doors."

"Guelph - Wellington Women in Crisis has a long record of providing exemplary service to women who are fleeing domestic abuse," said [Liz Sandals](#), MPP for Guelph. "I am pleased that this grant will enable Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis to move to a larger site and expand their support services to women who are victims of domestic violence."

### QUICK FACTS

- In 2006/2007, more than 14,000 women and children fleeing domestic abuse used emergency shelters, staying an average of 21.3 days.
- It is estimated that women with disabilities are [1.5 to 10 times](#) as likely to be abused as non-disabled women, depending on whether they live in the community or in institutions.

### LEARN MORE

Find out about Ontario's [Domestic Violence Action Plan](#).

Find out about the services and programs offered by [Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis](#).

Learn about what Ontario is doing to improve [accessibility](#) for people with disabilities.

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