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FIRST HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS PROJECTS APPROVED UNDER SINGLE WINDOW

TRIPARTITE INITIATIVE PROVIDES OVER \$856,000 IN FUNDING

WINNIPEG – OCTOBER 13, 2000 – The Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI) “single window” office, a new tripartite government partnership, has approved funding of over \$856,000 for four projects in Winnipeg. The WHHI will provide over \$638,000 to assist local community groups with three housing projects in the West Broadway, William Whyte and Lord Selkirk neighbourhoods, and over \$218,000 to help address youth homelessness.

Today’s funding announcement was made jointly by: Manitoba Family Services and Housing Minister Tim Sale, Dr. Rey Pagtakhan, Member of Parliament of Winnipeg North-St. Paul, on behalf of Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs and federal minister responsible for the WHHI, Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness, and Alfonso Gagliano, Minister of Public Works and Government Services, and minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), and by Mayor Glen Murray.

“Community renewal works best when ideas emerge from the community,” said Minister Sale. “The projects we are announcing today represent the progress that can be achieved when the people from within neighbourhoods and communities work together with governments to renew neighbourhoods for today’s residents and the generations of tomorrow. The single window concept of the WHHI brings together the expertise, resources and energy needed to advance the ideas of our community partners.”

“The Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative is a new and evolving partnership,” said Dr. Pagtakhan “I am encouraged by the co-operation between government and the community to work as partners on these first projects to address Winnipeg’s housing and homelessness issues. The federal government’s mission of promoting quality, affordable housing through public-private partnerships is enhanced by this initiative. By helping to fund these projects, we are re-investing in the future of our communities, our families and our youth.”

"These projects represent an important first step in our housing partnership with community groups," said Mayor Murray. "Building strong neighbourhoods can only happen by supporting the plans and dreams of people. We are working hard to listen to those dreams, identify how resources can best be used, and then simplify the process so plans can become reality. We expect approval for many more community-driven projects in the months ahead."

Total project cost for the three housing projects is estimated at \$1.3 million and will involve the purchase and/or repair of 53 units in three targeted neighbourhoods. Funding is being provided under the provincial Neighbourhood Housing Assistance (NHA) program, the federal-provincial Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) and the Winnipeg Housing Policy. The projects include:

- **The North End Housing Project (NEHP)** involves the purchase and complete renovation of five units, including three single-family units and one duplex in the William Whyte and Lord Selkirk Park neighbourhoods. In addition, the NEHP will complete renovations to six homes on three blocks of Alfred Avenue in William Whyte.
- **The Westminster Housing Society** project involves the purchase of two abandoned rooming houses to be developed into self-contained apartment units for low-income families.
- **The University of Winnipeg Educational Housing Corporation** has purchased five properties, including vacant and boarded up buildings, on Balmoral Street in the West Broadway neighbourhood to develop non-profit student housing.
- In addition to these housing projects, **Macdonald Youth Services** will receive funding assistance through the WHHI under the Government of Canada's Youth-at-Risk-Homelessness initiative.

The Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI) is a new three-year, multi-million dollar tripartite partnership established by the governments of Canada, Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg to address declining housing stock, homelessness and the revitalization of Winnipeg's older neighbourhoods.

Located at 233 Portage Avenue in the Curry Building, the WHHI office serves as a one-stop shop approach for community organizations that want information and easy access to government-funded housing and homelessness programs. The single window concept also helps foster improved cooperation and information sharing between the various levels of government and the community groups. For more information on the programs available, call the WHHI at (204) 940-3070.

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PROJECT AND WHHI DETAILS ATTACHED

PROJECT DETAILS

- **The North End Housing Project (NEHP)** involves the purchase and complete renovation of five units, including three single-family units and one duplex on Stella, Aberdeen and Boyd Streets in the William Whyte and Lord Selkirk Park neighbourhoods. Total project cost is estimated at \$152,500, including WHHI funding of \$29,000.
- In addition, the North End Housing Project will complete renovations to 10 homes on three blocks of Alfred Avenue in the William Whyte neighbourhood. Total project cost is estimated at \$343,000 including WHHI funding of \$49,000.

All of the homes will be leased to low-income residents under a rent-to-purchase agreement that allows the tenants to assume ownership after five years of renting. A portion of the rental payments will be applied to the mortgage on the homes.

- **The Westminster Housing Society** project involves the purchase of two abandoned rooming houses in the West Broadway neighbourhood and the development of six self-contained apartment units for low-income families. Total project cost is estimated at \$201,500 including WHHI funding of \$188,000.
- **The University of Winnipeg Educational Housing Corporation** has purchased five properties, including vacant and boarded-up buildings, on Balmoral Street in the West Broadway neighbourhood to develop 32 student housing units close to the campus. This is the first phase of a planned multi-year initiative by the university non-profit housing corporation.

Total project cost is \$607,158 including WHHI funding of \$372,000. The five properties include three houses, one small apartment block and a vacant lot. Each will be converted into a large multi-bedroom house with common cooking and eating areas, bathrooms and showers, study/computer space and high-speed network connections. A resident assistant will also live in each of the houses.

In addition to these housing projects, the WHHI has approved a proposal for funding assistance under the Government of Canada's Youth-at-Risk-Homelessness initiative:

WHHI funding will allow **Macdonald Youth Services** to support a team of 11 care workers in the Youth Resource Centre to continue providing essential programs and services to meet the immediate needs of young people facing multiple barriers and respond effectively to homelessness. A combination of three services - street outreach, safe overnight shelter and counseling and referral to appropriate resources will be provided through the project.

Total project cost is \$484,945 including WHHI funding of \$218,945. Other major funders include the United Way of Winnipeg and the Manitoba government. The Youth Resource Centre also depends on donations directly from the community. The centre will provide direct access to information, support and counseling. Staff will also ensure that proper assessment and planning occur with each youth. The project is expected to help about 1,400 youth between the ages of 13 and 21 with access to food, clothing, shelter and counseling.

**GOVERNMENT FUNDING
WINNIPEG HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVE (WHHI)**

Government of Canada

- \$12.7 million over three years under the *Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI)* for Manitoba homelessness-related projects. SCPI is based on a community plan developed by the various partners to come up with local solutions to their particular homelessness problems. SCPI will fund up to 50 per cent of the costs of implementing the plan. The other 50 per cent will be comprised of direct or in-kind contributions from a variety of partners, including other levels of government, and the private and voluntary sectors.
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), through the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP), to help low-income households and landlords make necessary repairs to bring their properties up to acceptable health and safety standards. RRAP is cost-shared 75/25 per cent respectively by the federal and provincial governments. The Manitoba government is administering the program while the City of Winnipeg acts as the delivery agent.

Government of Manitoba

- \$8 million over four years for housing in Winnipeg neighbourhoods through the Neighbourhood Housing Assistance (NHA) program under the *Neighbourhoods Alive!* initiative. *Neighbourhoods Alive!* is a long-term development strategy aimed at providing community groups with the support they need for programs in the areas of housing and physical improvements, employment and training, education and recreation, and safety and crime prevention.
- The NHA will contribute to the revitalization of housing in declining neighbourhoods by supporting homeownership and renovation initiatives of community-based groups in designated neighbourhoods. Eligible community organizations and individuals may receive up to \$10,000 per residential dwelling unit for the purchase or renovation.

City of Winnipeg Funding

- \$7 million dollars over five years under the *Winnipeg Housing Policy*, with \$2 million available immediately to fund housing initiatives in targeted inner-city neighbourhoods.