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Winnipeg Housing and
Homelessness Initiative



Programme Logement et
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Winnipeg

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHHI ASSISTS INNER-CITY HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM

WINNIPEG – OCTOBER 11, 2001 – More low and moderate income families living in Winnipeg’s inner city neighbourhoods will have access to homeownership through the Housing Opportunity Partnership (HOP), with over \$200,000 in funding assistance from The Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI).

Today’s announcement was made by Tim Sale, Manitoba Family Services and Housing Minister; Daniel Vandal, Councilor and Chairperson of the City of Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee, on behalf of Mayor Glen Murray, and Anita Neville, MP for Winnipeg South-Centre, on behalf of Ron J. Duhamel, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Secretary of State (Western Economic Diversification) (Francophonie), and Alfonso Gagliano, Minister of Public Works and Government Services, and minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

“Being able to partner with the Housing Opportunity Partnership ensures the rehabilitation of more inner-city homes and the Province of Manitoba, through the WHHI, is supporting a success story that will help families and neighbourhoods become stronger and healthier,” said Minister Sale. “HOP has already been able to bring homeowners back to this area - people who have a commitment to better their neighbourhoods. These revitalization efforts have prompted other existing area homeowners to upgrade their homes as well.”

“HOP represents a proactive and innovative approach to housing revitalization in the inner city, using a combination of government assistance along with a commitment from the private sector,” said Councilor Vandal. “The City of Winnipeg is pleased to support this program through funding from the Winnipeg Housing Policy. Our goal is to support Winnipeg’s inner-city neighborhoods through locally planned community-supported initiatives.”

“Programs such as HOP play a vital role in helping to revitalize the inner city and instill pride in the residents who live there by providing safe and affordable housing,” said Ms. Neville. “I am pleased to see that the Government of Canada, through the WHHI, is helping more Canadians become homeowners by allowing them to contribute their own labour as half of their required 5 per cent down payment to qualify for a CMHC-insured mortgage loan.”

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The WHHI is providing HOP with up to \$200,000 to purchase, renovate and market at least 10 housing units in the Daniel McIntyre and St. Matthews neighbourhoods for sale to low and moderate income households. This funding is being provided under the provincial Neighbourhood Housing Assistance (NHA) program and the City of Winnipeg Housing Policy initiative. Daniel McIntyre and St. Matthews are among the 14 Major Improvement Areas identified by the City of Winnipeg.

The Housing Opportunity Partnership is a non-profit corporation created by the Winnipeg Real Estate Board using the real estate brokers fund to develop homeownership through the acquisition and renovation of substandard or derelict single family housing.

"HOP efforts have been supported by the private sector and the three levels of government," said HOP President, Tom Yauk. "Through actual work in an inner-city area, we have acquired an appreciation of the resources required to facilitate housing and neighbourhood revitalization. We have outlined these requirements to the WHHI and have been met with an enhanced funding opportunity that acknowledges our experiences. This will enable HOP to continue to meet its mandate of accommodating homeownership. The HOP Board of Directors wishes to thank the WHHI for the program funding being announced today. We are so grateful for the continued support by the Winnipeg Real Estate Board; a resource that accommodates important private/public enterprise."

HOP has been working in the Daniel McIntyre and St. Matthews neighbourhoods, focusing on several blocks east of Arlington Street. HOP has already completed renovations on 21 homes, with 17 sold and four nearing completion.

The Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative is a 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 Single Window office serves as a one-stop shop for community organizations to access information on government-funded housing and homelessness programs. The single window concept also helps to 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.

Media inquiries:

Brian Williamson

Communications

Winnipeg Housing and

Homelessness Initiative (WHHI)

(204) 984-0592 Cel: 771-8887

e-mail: brian.williamson@hrdc-drhc.gc.ca

BACKGROUND

Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI) Funding

Government of Canada

Under the *National Homelessness Initiative (NHI)*, communities in Manitoba will receive approximately \$25 million over three years:

- \$12.7 million through the *Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI)*, which includes \$10.8 million for homelessness projects in Winnipeg, and \$1.9 million for projects outside the city;

The SCPI is based on a community plan developed by the various partners to design and implement local solutions to their particular homelessness issues. The SCPI funds up to 50 per cent of the costs of implementing the community plan. The other 50 per cent is comprised of direct or in-kind contributions from a variety of partners, including other levels of government, community organizations, and the private and voluntary sectors.

Additional federal funding assistance is provided through the following programs:

- \$1.9 million for youth projects under *Youth-at-Risk-Homelessness (Youth Employment Strategy)*; and
- \$9.9 million for Aboriginal-specific projects under *Urban Aboriginal Strategy-Homelessness*.
- *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 government through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), and by the provincial government through Manitoba Family Services and Housing. Manitoba 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

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

