

News Release | Communiqué

Winnipeg Housing and
Homelessness Initiative



Programme Logement et
Sans abris de Winnipeg

Canada

Manitoba



Winnipeg

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REFURBISHED HOME WILL BENEFIT PARTICIPANTS OF NEW DIRECTIONS PROGRAM

WINNIPEG – JUNE 14, 2001 – A newly-renovated home in Winnipeg that will provide much-needed, affordable housing for low-income residents participating in the New Directions for Children, Youth and Families Apartment Living program, was officially opened today. The home was purchased and renovated by the Westminster Housing Society Inc. with funding from the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI).

Participating in the opening ceremony were Tim Sale, Manitoba Family Services and Housing Minister; Anita Neville, Member of Parliament 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); and Councillor Daniel Vandal, Chairperson, City of Winnipeg's Standing Committee on Property and Development, representing Mayor Glen Murray.

“The partnerships at work in this project are quite remarkable,” Minister Sale said. “Westminster Housing Society should be proud, as this newly refurbished home will be a spark for neighbourhood revitalization and by linking with New Directions, all of the partners of the WHHI, including the Province of Manitoba, are helping to support people to live and participate in the community, to the fullest of their potential.”

“This is another excellent example of the WHHI working closely with the community to help low-income individuals obtain safe, quality and affordable housing,” said Neville. “I am pleased the federal government, through CMHC and the WHHI, has been able to partner with groups like the Westminster Housing Society and contribute to important neighbourhood revitalization projects such as this.”

“This project is an innovative use of existing resources,” said Councillor Vandal. “The Westminster Housing Society has taken a community-based approach to ensure the residents are able to enjoy the quality of life they deserve.”

The total capital costs of the project were over \$100,000. Funding of \$94,000 was provided to Westminster Housing Society by the WHHI under the provincial Neighbourhood Housing Assistance (NHA) program, the federal-provincial Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) and the City of Winnipeg's Housing Policy initiative. Additional funding was provided by The Westminster Housing Society.

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The project involved converting an abandoned three-story rooming house into three apartments to house three individuals with special needs. New Directions for Children, Youth and Families, a multi-service agency in Winnipeg, will occupy part of the main floor, which has been converted into an office to provide some on-site supervision and support services. The house is owned and managed by the Westminster Housing Society and is the first rehabilitation project for the organization funded through the WHHI.

“Our commitment is to provide good, quality housing at affordable rental rates,” said Justice Charles R. Huband, past President of the Westminster Housing Society. “We are pleased to work with the WHHI Single Window office to make this project possible. We are also delighted that the tenants in the three units of this newly-renovated house are supported by New Directions and we look forward to working with the organization in the future.”

“We are pleased to be able to offer safe, affordable housing to the selected residents,” said Dr. Linda Trigg, Executive Director of New Directions. “This project will allow the residents to maintain a high level of independence, but also ensure that they have supports close at hand. New Directions would like to thank all of our partners who contribute to our work and especially Westminster Housing for making this project possible.”

The Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI) 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 approach 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

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

BACKGROUND

Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI) Funding

Government of Canada

- \$10.8 million over three years under the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) for Winnipeg homelessness-related projects. 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.
- \$567,000 annually to homelessness-related youth projects under Canada's Youth Employment Strategy (YES). \$3.3 million annually has been directed to homelessness-related Aboriginal projects under the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS).
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), under 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

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