



# News Release | Communiqué

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 11, 2002

## **WHHI CONTRIBUTES OVER \$3.3 MILLION TO HELP FIGHT HOMELESSNESS IN WINNIPEG**

**WINNIPEG, Manitoba** – Eleven local community groups will benefit from more than \$3.3 million in funding through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI) which will help provide emergency and transitional housing and increase programming and services for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The funding from the initiative is being provided through the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative, the Manitoba government's Neighbourhood Housing Assistance program and the City of Winnipeg Housing Policy Initiative.

The funding announcement was made by Anita Neville, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South-Centre, on behalf of the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Coordinator on Homelessness; the Honourable Drew Caldwell, Manitoba Minister of Family Services and Housing; and Glen Murray, Mayor of Winnipeg.

"The collective action of these diverse groups is helping to address the differing homelessness priorities and needs in Winnipeg," said Ms. Neville. "Through the National Homelessness Initiative, we are bringing governments and community organizations together to help alleviate homelessness by encouraging and supporting local solutions for local problems."

"We are pleased this initiative will give local community groups the opportunity to assist people who do not have a home or are at risk of becoming homeless in several areas of Winnipeg," said Minister Caldwell. "Our community partners will be helping Manitobans in need, while at the same time helping them achieve greater self-sufficiency and independence."

"Everyone in our community needs the assurance of having a safe and warm place to go," said Mayor Murray. "The efforts of the community groups recognized here today are invaluable. In helping our most vulnerable citizens, these groups are making Winnipeg a more humane place for all of us."

The WHHI funding will help purchase or renovate buildings to provide emergency and transitional housing and programming and services for homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless. In addition, feasibility studies will be conducted on proposed projects to determine their viability. The funding breakdown is as follows (please see attached backgrounder for project descriptions):

*Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI)/ Urban Aboriginal Strategy- Homelessness/Neighbourhood Housing Assistance/City of Winnipeg combined funding:*

- \$1,645,465 for New Life Ministries Inc.

*SCPI funding:*

- \$858,194 for Citizenship Council of Manitoba Inc.
- \$399,949 for Macdonald Youth Services
- \$142,685 for Siloam Mission
- \$40,675 for Villa Rosa Inc.
- \$30,000 for the Housing Concerns Group of Winnipeg Inc.

*UAS/funding:*

- \$93,992 for Society 2000 Inc.
- \$65,000 for the Manitoba Indian Cultural Education Centre
- \$52,605 for Ikwe-Widdjitiwin Inc.
- \$16,525 for Sweet Grass Circle Inc.
- \$14,795 for the Anishinabe Fellowship Centre.

The Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative is a three-year, multi-million dollar partnership established by the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg to address homelessness, declining housing stock and the revitalization of Winnipeg's older neighbourhoods. With this announcement, the WHHI has committed \$26.3 million to support the repair, rehabilitation and construction of more than 922 units of housing and 120 rooms or beds and to help homeless individuals and families, and those at risk of becoming homeless.

Located at 233 Portage Avenue, the initiative serves as a single window office for community organizations to access information on government funded housing and homelessness programs. This helps improve co-operation and information sharing among the three levels of government and community groups. Community groups wanting more information on programs can call the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative at (204) 940-3070.

**For more information:**

Brian Williamson  
Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative  
(WHHI)  
(204) 984-0592

David Klug  
Minister Bradshaw's office  
(819) 953-5646

# **PROJECT BACKGROUNDER**

**The following project is funded through the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative and the Urban Aboriginal Strategy – Homelessness:**

**New Life Ministries - \$1,645,465**

New Life Ministries will expand its services to provide shelter and supportive housing to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. It will buy and convert 44 substandard units into five emergency and 39 transitional shelter units for individuals and families. Project activities also include intervention, placement, caretaker support and counselling services for at-risk individuals and families, to support integration into the community.

WHHI funding includes \$1,379,465 from the Government of Canada through the SCPI and the UAS component; \$236,000 under the Manitoba government's Neighbourhood Housing Assistance program and \$30,000 through the City of Winnipeg Housing Policy Initiative. New Life Ministries is contributing an additional \$48,000 in-kind.

Contact: Reverend Harry Lehotsky, New Life Ministries (204) 997-5289

**The following projects are funded through the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative:**

**Citizenship Council of Manitoba Inc. - \$858,194**

The International Centre of Winnipeg will renovate Centre House as a safe, transitional housing facility to provide homeless immigrants and those at risk of becoming homeless, with easy access to services, which are designed to help achieve self-sufficiency.

Contact: Fatima Soares, Citizenship Council of Manitoba (204) 943-9158

**Macdonald Youth Services - \$399,949**

This funding will allow Macdonald Youth Services to continue providing youth at risk with services to address their basic needs and offer alternatives to life on the street through the operation of its Youth Resource Centre, which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Contact: Paul Johnston, Macdonald Youth Services (204) 949-3799

**Siloam Mission - \$142,685**

This project will see the expansion of services for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness. The project also involves renovating the kitchen and upgrading of equipment.

Contact: Rick Galsel, Executive Director, (204) 793-7646

**Villa Rosa Inc. - \$40,675**

The funding will enable Villa Rosa to purchase a passenger van to transport young, homeless and at-risk mothers and their children to appointments and daily activities.

Contact: Kathy Strachan, Villa Rosa Inc. (204) 786-5741

# **PROJECT BACKGROUNDER**

## **Housing Concerns Group of Winnipeg, Inc. - \$30,000**

The group will develop a central housing registry to help people find safe, adequate housing. The project will also encourage landlords and tenants to collectively care for, monitor and protect apartment buildings through tenant panels and workshops offered at the West Broadway Neighbourhood Housing Resource Centre.

Contact: Linda Williams, Housing Concerns Group of Winnipeg Inc. (204) 783-1995

## **The following projects are funded through the Urban Aboriginal Strategy – Homelessness:**

### **Society 2000 Inc. - \$93,992**

Society 2000 will purchase and convert a building into a new transitional house and resource centre for offenders and ex-offenders who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The new centre, the Millennium House Project, will offer participants and their families a variety of services in a safe and substance-free environment designed to facilitate successful integration into the community.

Contact: Patrick Laroque, Society 2000 Inc. (204) 982-8242

### **Manitoba Indian Cultural Education Centre -\$65,000**

The centre will renovate its existing building and establish an accessible, community-oriented women's centre, the North Point Douglas Project for Women. Funds will also be used to develop a housing registry and other services that contribute to neighbourhood stability.

Contact: Nancy Grant, Manitoba Indian Cultural Education Centre (204) 947-2936

### **Ikwe-Widdjiitiwin Inc. - \$52,444**

Ikwe-Widdjiitiwin will purchase additional furniture and office equipment and enhance security at its Aboriginal women's safe shelter that provides a safe, secure building with a beneficial, healing environment for women and their children.

Contact: Diane Bairstow, Ikwe-Widdjiitiwin Inc. (204) 987-2786

### **Sweet Grass Circle Inc. - \$16,525**

The group will conduct a feasibility study for a six-bed transitional housing project for First Nations youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Contact: Rhonda Longboat, Sweet Grass Circle Inc. (204) 268-3663

### **Anishinabe Fellowship Centre - \$14,795**

The Centre will conduct a feasibility study for a transitional housing project for single, Aboriginal adults who are currently homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Contact: Lorna Law, Anishinabe Fellowship Centre (204) 946-8262

# Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI) Funding

## Government of Canada

Under the *National Homelessness Initiative*, communities in Manitoba will receive approximately \$24 million:

- \$12.8 million through the *Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI)*, which includes; and
- \$10.9 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 comprises 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:

- \$1.7 million for youth projects under *Youth-at-Risk-Homelessness (Youth Employment Strategy)*; and
- \$9.9 million for Aboriginal-specific projects under the *Urban Aboriginal Strategy-Homelessness*.
- *Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP)*, which helps 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 the 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.

**For more information on the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative, visit the NHI Web site at: [www.hrdc.gc.ca/homelessness](http://www.hrdc.gc.ca/homelessness)**

## Government of Manitoba

Neighbourhoods Alive! is a long-term development strategy aimed at providing community groups in designated areas of Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson 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 Manitoba government has committed \$3.7 million to Neighbourhoods Alive! in the 2002 budget to develop local capacity, innovative training and provide a fund through which local neighbourhoods can implement their revitalization plans.

# WHHI BACKGROUNDER

In addition, under Neighbourhoods Alive! and through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI), the Government of Manitoba has committed:

- \$8 million over four years for housing in Winnipeg neighbourhoods through the *Neighbourhood Housing Assistance (NHA)* program, plus an additional \$1 million each year for housing in Brandon and Thompson.

The NHA will contribute to the revitalization of housing in designated neighbourhoods by providing assistance of up to \$10,000 per dwelling unit to neighbourhood based development/renewal corporations and non-profit and co-operative housing corporations for locally planned and developed housing initiatives. Funding can also be provided directly to homeowners or owners of rental housing projects where there is demonstrated community support.

- The Manitoba government has also committed close to \$2 million annually to its share of federal renovation programs, including the *Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program* and the *Shelter Enhancement Program*.

***For more information on Manitoba Family Services and Housing, visit: [www.gov.mb.ca/fs](http://www.gov.mb.ca/fs)***

## **City of Winnipeg**

The City of Winnipeg has allocated \$7 million over five years under the Winnipeg Housing Policy to fund housing initiatives in targeted inner-city neighbourhoods. Funding is available through several programs:

- Winnipeg Municipal Cost Offsets Program provides financial assistance up to \$5,000 per housing unit through reimbursement of City fees and other eligible costs.
- Winnipeg Housing Revitalization Program provides financial assistance up to \$5,000 per housing unit for housing project pre-development costs.
- Winnipeg Neighbourhood Housing Plans and Advocacy Program provides financial assistance and other support to neighbourhood stakeholders to develop a Neighbourhood Housing Plan.
- Winnipeg Housing Demonstration Program provides financial assistance to proponents to encourage unique and innovative approaches to addressing inner-city housing issues that result in quality, affordable housing.
- Winnipeg Minimum Home Repair Program provides financial assistance to owner-occupants to undertake minor necessary repairs required for continued healthy and safe occupancy of homes.

***For more information on the City of Winnipeg, visit: [www.city.winnipeg.mb.ca](http://www.city.winnipeg.mb.ca)***