



News Release | Communiqué

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FUNDING PROVIDED TO RENOVATE HOUSING FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN INNER CITY

WINNIPEG – JANUARY 24, 2002 – The William Whyte and Spence neighbourhoods and Aboriginal families will benefit from improved and affordable housing with the help of a \$228,000 contribution from the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI).

The funding, from the Manitoba government, the Government of Canada and the City of Winnipeg, is being provided to Kinew Housing Inc., to renovate six inner-city homes occupied by Aboriginal families. Kinew's focus will be on renovations that will blend in with the continued revitalization efforts in the area.

Participating in today's funding announcement were: the Honourable Tim Sale, Minister of Manitoba Family Services and Housing; Anita Neville, MP for Winnipeg South-Centre, on behalf of the Honourable John Manley, Deputy Prime Minister and minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC); and Daniel Vandal, Councillor and Chairperson of the City of Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee, on behalf of Mayor Glen Murray.

"This funding from the WHHI will create safe and secure housing which is key to the Manitoba government's commitment, through the Neighbourhoods Alive! initiative, to supporting community groups to make needed housing improvements," said Minister Sale. "This will also assist citizens to become more self-sufficient, while strengthening families and building communities."

"Kinew has demonstrated its ability to effectively manage housing units throughout Winnipeg," said Ms. Neville. "By assisting Aboriginal groups such as Kinew, the Government of Canada through the WHHI, is helping to ensure the housing needs of Aboriginal people are adequately met."

"Providing financial assistance to the Kinew Housing Inc. demonstrates the City's commitment to supporting made-in Winnipeg neighbourhood solutions to neighbourhood problems," said Councillor Vandal. "We're proud to be a partner with the WHHI to help Kinew provide quality, affordable housing units for Aboriginal people."

The WHHI funding is being made available under the Manitoba government's Neighbourhood Housing Assistance (NHA) program under the Neighbourhoods Alive! initiative, the federal-provincial Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) and the City of Winnipeg's Housing Policy initiative.

Kinew Housing Inc. was created in 1970 to address Aboriginal housing needs in major urban areas. Kinew was the first non-profit housing corporation in Canada to be sponsored, owned and managed by Aboriginal people and currently manages over 400 units of housing in Winnipeg's inner city.

"These homes will not only help address affordable housing issues for low-income Native people, but they also demonstrate the collaborative effort among Kinew and the community to improve the quality of life for the residents," said Lawrence Poirier, Manager of Kinew Housing Inc. "We are pleased to work with the WHHI in making it possible to make these much-needed repairs."

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. To date, the WHHI has committed over \$10.1 million to help community groups rehabilitate houses and provide assistance to homeless individuals and families, or those at risk of being homeless.

Located at 233 Portage Avenue in the Curry Building, the WHHI serves as a Single Window office 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 Cell: 771-8887
e-mail: brian.williamson@hrdc-drhc.gc.ca

Lawrence Poirier
Kinew Housing Inc.
(204) 956-2206

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. Funding for the National Homelessness Initiative was provided for in the February 2000 budget and is therefore built into the existing financial framework. All homelessness projects must meet the terms and conditions of the SCPI prior to receiving funding.

- \$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.

For more information on the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative, visit the NHI Web site at: 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 2001 budget to develop local capacity, innovative training and provide a fund through which local neighbourhoods can implement their revitalization plans.

BACKGROUND

-2-

In addition, under Neighbourhoods Alive! and through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI), 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 (RRAP)* and the *Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP)*.

City of Winnipeg

- \$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.