



# News Release      Communiqué

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **EXPANDED INNER-CITY SHELTER WILL OFFER MORE PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH AT-RISK**

**WINNIPEG, MAY 14, 2002**– An inner-city shelter has launched a renovation and expansion project that will provide better programs and services and improved accommodations for at-risk youth needing a safe place to stay. The project at Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Inc. is being made possible by a \$790,000 contribution from the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI), which is funded by the governments of Canada and Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg.

The total cost for the project is estimated at \$944,000. The Government of Canada is contributing \$477,395 through the Urban Aboriginal Strategy – Homelessness, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Manitoba Family Services and Housing are providing up to \$288,000 through the Shelter Enhancement Program (cost-shared 75/25 per cent respectively), and the City of Winnipeg is contributing \$24,000.

The start of construction was marked today at a special event that also celebrated the second year anniversary of the WHHI. Participating in the ceremony were: Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South Centre Anita Neville, on behalf of the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour, and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness; the Honourable Tim Sale, Manitoba Minister of Family Services and Housing; Lillian Thomas, Deputy Mayor, on behalf of the City of Winnipeg; and Sonia Prevost-Derbeker, Executive Director for Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Inc.

"The expanded facility will provide Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad with more space to offer improved and additional programs to better meet the needs of the inner-city youth staying at the shelter," said MP Neville. "Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad is a prime example of the community and the Government of Canada, through the WHHI, working closely together to develop projects that provide a safe, healthy home environment that can lead to positive changes in the attitudes and behaviors of Winnipeg's youth at-risk."

"We are pleased to help Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad rehabilitate its safe house for youth who are at-risk due to the negative effects of street life or gang activities," said Minister Sale. "This unique community project will help revitalize the Lord Selkirk neighbourhood and with the installation of energy efficient, geothermal heat pump technology, will greatly reduce heating costs for the facility and greenhouse gas emissions.

"This facility is a great asset to the inner-city," said Councillor Thomas. "With a safe place to live, which includes a supportive environment and opportunities to learn, Ndinawe provides a strong alternative to life on the street."

Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad is a residential safe house that provides short-term, accessible, 24-hour shelter and basic necessities, primarily for Aboriginal children at risk of abuse or exploitation. The non-profit organization works with other service agencies in Winnipeg's North end to help inner-city street youth in need of a safe place to stay. The shelter offers culturally appropriate services, including residential support programs.

"Ndinawe has been around since 1993," said Sonia Prevost-Derbecker, Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Executive Director. "With this continued support from our funders, we will be able to serve youth and families from our community and across Canada for many years to come. This has been a community effort. To build a new home has been a collaborative event including support from Native Women's Transition Center, North End Housing, Ma Mawi Wi Itata Centre, Andrew Street Family Center and many more service providers. The openness and generosity that we have received has not only been validating, it has been heart warming."

During construction, youth clients will be temporarily housed in a structure being built by the North End Housing Project, and by students from R.B. Russell School as part of a work experience program.

The Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI) is a three-year, multi-million dollar tripartite partnership established by the Government of Canada, Province of 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 \$18 million to help community groups rehabilitate houses and provide assistance to homeless individuals and families, or those at risk of becoming 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. This also helps foster improved co-operation and information sharing between the various levels of government and the community groups. Community groups wanting more information on the programs available can call the WHHI at (204) 940-3070.

Funding for the National Homelessness Initiative was provided for in the December 2001 budget and is built into the existing financial framework.

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

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

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

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# Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI) Funding

## Government of Canada

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

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

- \$1.7 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](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 (RRAP)* and the *Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP)*.

## City of Winnipeg

The city 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.