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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHHI HELPS FUND HOUSING REHABILITATION PROJECT FOR NORTH POINT DOUGLAS AREA

WINNIPEG – MAY 17, 2002 – Residents in North Point Douglas will soon benefit from more affordable housing choices as the North End Housing Project expands a successful housing rehabilitation program to the area. The project is being made possible through funding assistance of up to \$760,000 from the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI).

The project is the first major housing revitalization program in North Point Douglas in almost two decades and was developed in consultation with the community. Over the next 14 months, the North End Housing Project will acquire and rehabilitate up to 20 homes in the neighbourhood. These homes will be provided to low and moderate income households on a rent-to-own basis.

Today's funding announcement was made by the Honourable Tim Sale, Manitoba Minister of Family Services and Housing; the Honourable Rey D. Pagtakhan, Minister of Veterans Affairs, on behalf of John Manley, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Infrastructure and Crown Corporations; and Daniel Vandal, Councillor and Chairperson of the City of Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee, on behalf of Mayor Glen Murray.

"This is an important step for an area of the inner-city that has not seen significant revitalization in many years," said Minister Sale. "Support such as this through the WHHI will tackle the redevelopment of boarded up and derelict houses. It also helps to strengthen families and build communities and will provide citizens with access to adequate and affordable housing."

"The Government of Canada is indeed proud to be part of this North End Housing Project initiative," said Minister Pagtakhan. "Quality affordable housing is a federal priority which is clearly demonstrated here and in the projects already underway in the William Whyte and Lord Selkirk areas. By expanding activities into this North Point Douglas area, residents are demonstrating their desire to live in a neighborhood that will ultimately benefit our inner-city as a whole."

"People are coming together to plan what works best for their neighbourhoods, and in North Point Douglas, renovating 20 homes that families can use is an excellent start," said Mayor Murray. "I am extremely pleased the City is able to offer support as residents of one of Winnipeg's oldest and most historic areas reclaim their streets one block at a time."

Total project cost for the acquisition and rehabilitation of the homes is estimated at \$1.4 million. The funding includes:

- WHHI support of up to \$760,000 under the Manitoba government's Neighbourhood Housing Assistance (NHA) program, the federal-provincial Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) and the City of Winnipeg Housing Policy initiative; and
- More than \$200,000 from the Thomas Sill Foundation.

The North End Housing Project will coordinate homeownership training, home budgeting support, credit counselling and other outreach assistance for the residents.

"North End Housing Project Inc., is pleased to be part of the community revitalization in Point Douglas," said Gail Stapon, Secretary for the NEHP Board of Directors. "Together with the three levels of government and the Thomas Sill Foundation we will work towards building a healthy, vibrant and safe community."

The Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative is a three-year, multi-million dollar tripartite partnership established by the Government of Canada, Province of Manitoba and City of Winnipeg to address declining housing stock, homelessness and the revitalization of Winnipeg's older neighbourhoods. With this announcement, the WHHI has committed over \$18 million to support the construction and rehabilitation of 600 units of housing and about 100 rooms or beds, as well as 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 improve co-operation and information sharing between the three levels of government and community groups. Community groups wanting more information on programs can call the WHHI at (204) 940-3070.

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For more information on Manitoba Family Services and Housing, visit:
www.gov.mb.ca/fs

For more information on the City of Winnipeg, visit:
www.city.winnipeg.mb.ca

For more information on Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, visit:
www.cmhc-schl.gc.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

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.

