



# News Release | Communiqué

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## WHHI FUNDS WEST BROADWAY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

**WINNIPEG –October 7, 2002** – Residents and homeowners will soon benefit from the repair, revitalization and construction of homes and housing units in the West Broadway neighbourhood with the help of up to \$430,000 from the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI). Funding is being provided to the West Broadway Development Corporation, Westminster Housing Society, the Winnipeg Housing Rehabilitation Corporation and the West Broadway Neighbourhood Resource Centre.

The funding responds to the priorities identified in the West Broadway Neighbourhood Housing Plan developed by the West Broadway Development Corporation in conjunction with the local residents. West Broadway Development Corporation will coordinate the implementation of the plan with the local housing development stakeholders.

Today's announcement was made by Winnipeg Mayor Glen Murray and Drew Caldwell, Manitoba Minister of Family Services and Housing.

“West Broadway is a remarkable success story,” said Mayor Murray. “The residents of this community have been untiring in their efforts to reclaim one of the most interesting mature neighbourhoods in the city. Innovative ideas such as the Healthy House that will be constructed on Young Street proves the people of West Broadway are doing more than repairing older houses, although that is important. They are creating livable, sustainable homes for the future.”

“This initiative funding continues our support in the West Broadway area, to help boost the revitalization of inner-city neighbourhoods and improve the quality of life for local residents,” said Minister Caldwell. These groups have a diverse approach to housing, including using innovative technology in homes that will result in lowered utility bills and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Their approach benefits the neighbourhood and Winnipeg and supports today being World Habitat Day.”

WHHI funding for the projects in the West Broadway neighbourhood is up to \$430,000. This includes \$250,000 through the City of Winnipeg Housing Policy Initiative and \$180,000 from the Manitoba government's Neighbourhood Housing Assistance program. Last December, West Broadway Development Corporation also received \$30,000 from the Government of Manitoba's Neighbourhoods Alive! Initiative and \$30,000 from the City of Winnipeg to develop its Neighbourhood Housing Plan.

The group's housing plan focuses on the rehabilitation and construction of homes for low- and moderate-income families in the West Broadway area, as well as community revitalization through the development of green space, infill housing and providing grants to homeowners and landlords for fix-up projects (See attached backgrounder for project details).

"These projects reflect the hard work and dedication of all the groups and residents in West Broadway to ensure our neighbourhood is a desirable place to live," said Paul Chorney, Executive Director for the West Broadway Development Corporation. "These are local West Broadway solutions to our housing and neighbourhood issues. The assistance from the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative is playing a key role in allowing us to realize many of the initiatives recommended by the residents.

The Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative is a three-year, multi-million dollar tripartite 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 \$25.7 million to support the repair, rehabilitation and construction of over 820 units of housing and 110 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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# WEST BROADWAY NEIGHBOURHOOD

## Project Backgrounder

The West Broadway Neighbourhood Housing Plan for this year includes:

- Winnipeg Housing Rehabilitation Corporation, in partnership with private owners, will renovate six houses that will be offered for direct sale or on a rent-to-own basis to homeowners under the Community Land Trust Initiative. Total project cost is estimated at \$480,000. Total Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI) funding is up to \$120,000.
- Westminster Housing Society Inc. in partnership with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, will rehabilitate three additional houses to create up to 12 supported housing units. Total project cost is estimated at \$500,000. Total WHHI funding is up to \$160,000.
- A local business, in partnership with Macdonald Youth Services, will transform a former rooming house into eight transitional housing units for at-risk youth.
- West Broadway Development Corporation is directing \$42,000 towards partnership initiatives to provide future sustainable, supportive rental and eco-housing.
- Construction of two “Healthy Houses” which are a new experimental prototype infill house incorporating energy efficiency, ergonomics and new architectural design, to be built on vacant lots in the West Broadway neighbourhood.
- West Broadway Development Corporation is providing 18 grants of between \$1,000 to \$7,000 to local homeowners and landlords for residential fix-up projects.
- An additional six homeowners will receive grants of up to \$3,000 for emergency home repairs.
- Funding to hire a Housing Development Coordinator to ensure all projects meet the objectives of the Neighbourhood Housing Plan and that available resources are distributed to local housing development groups.

# 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 the *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 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.

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)*.

***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)***