



News Release | Communiqué

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 15, 2003

COMMUNITY GROUPS RECEIVE OVER \$8 MILLION TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN WINNIPEG

WINNIPEG, Manitoba –Thirty projects announced today will create more transitional shelters, provide additional services and expand programs for homeless people or those at risk of being homeless with over \$8 million in funding assistance through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI).

The funding is being provided under the Urban Aboriginal component and Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative of the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative.

Today's funding announcement was made during the official opening of the Circle of Life Thunderbird House Maa doo do son transitional project. 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 Councillor Gord Steeves, Assistant Deputy Mayor, on behalf of His Worship Glen Murray, Mayor of Winnipeg, participated in today's ceremonies.

"The Government of Canada is proud to support these organizations in their efforts to help improve the quality of life of our less fortunate citizens," said Ms. Neville. "This funding contribution demonstrates our government's commitment under the National Homelessness Initiative to work with our government partners to help the community address their own needs. I am also very pleased that the Government of Canada will continue its commitment to address homelessness by investing an additional \$22 million over three years for Manitoba projects in the extension of the National Homelessness Initiative."

"We are pleased that this assistance, through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative, will help ensure people in need can access adequate housing and other key services," said Minister Caldwell. "We are committed to supporting locally-driven approaches that strengthen families and provide people in need with a safe and secure place to live."

"Funding announced today under the federal Homelessness Initiative demonstrates that the WHHI tri-level partnership is addressing the needs of Winnipeg's most disadvantaged citizens," said Mayor Murray. "The City has committed \$7 million under the Winnipeg Housing Initiative and \$17.5 million under the Affordable Housing Initiative to support community-based housing renewal programs. The provision of safe accommodation for the needy, and the renewal of Winnipeg's inner city neighbourhoods, are both goals that this partnership is working to achieve."

The National Homelessness Initiative funding is helping the organizations build new facilities or renovate existing buildings, provide more transitional housing, as well as expand programs and services for those at risk of being homeless. The 30 projects have been identified as priorities by the community to address homelessness in Winnipeg. (See attached backgrounder for project descriptions).

The funding is being coordinated through the WHHI, a 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. Located at 361 Hargrave Street, the WHHI serves as a single-window office for community organizations to access information on government funded housing and homelessness programs. Community groups wanting more information on programs can call the WHHI at (204) 940-3070.

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BACKGROUND

Project funding to be announced in Winnipeg, Manitoba on Wednesday, October 15.

The following projects are being funded through the Urban Aboriginal and Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative components of the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative.

- **Wahbung Abinoonjiig - \$1,399,025.** To construct a new, environmentally- friendly building next to Mt. Carmel Clinic and increase the group's capacity to provide services for homeless women and children who are victims of domestic violence.
- **Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre - \$967,095.** To establish a Learning Centre that will provide personal development opportunities for up to 30 Aboriginal youth/young adult at-risk participants.
- **Klinic Inc -\$902,500.** To renovate the Wilson House and increase community partnerships to deliver home care, public health and financial services.
- **Native Women's Transition Centre - \$696,315 .** To renovate the existing shelter and increase emergency/ transitional housing space, refurbish/renew equipment and furniture as well as purchase a passenger van to transport the women and children to appointments and events.
- **Circle of Life Thunderbird House (PAA PII Wak) -\$663,026.** To provide transitional housing and holistic programming for four Aboriginal male youth aged 18-29 years who are currently and/or were involved with street gangs.
- **Urban Circle Training Centre -\$429,155.** To purchase and renovate a new building that will allow the expansion of larger location and expand pre-employment and lifeskills development services for Aboriginal clients in the north end.
- **New Directions for Life Ministries (House of Hesed) -\$409,444.** To renovate a property at 251 Furby Street and increase House of Hesed's occupancy capacity to 10 spaces for HIV/AIDS clients, as well as provide one space for a live-in care worker.
- **Neeginan Development Corporation -\$454,330.** To operate a short-term, temporary emergency shelter over the winter months and provide additional short-term beds for the expected overflow of homeless or at risk individuals.
- **Ikwe Widdjiitiwin (Oyate Tipi) - \$352,035.** To renovate a former Bank of Montreal building and operate a furniture warehouse depot for women and children who are victims of domestic violence.
- **Operation Go Home (OGH) – Manitoba Chapter - \$241,958.** To hire new staff necessary to continue providing prevention and intervention services to youth at risk.
- **Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre - \$221,000 -** To purchase a facility and establish a 24/7, 6-bed home for homeless or at-risk Aboriginal females between the ages of 12-16 years that are current and potential victims of sexual exploitation.
- **Behavioural Health Foundation -\$165,600.** To upgrade the kitchen area and increase food service to 500 meals per day for clients in the residential and addictions programs.
- **Union Gospel Mission (UGM) -\$172,615.** To renovate the 320 Princess location and increase shelter/support services for at risk clients.
- **Hands of Hope - \$199,999.** To build a new warehouse and provide furniture and other household items to at risk individuals.
- **Main Street Project -\$166, 433.** To renovate the 75 Martha Street shelter and create a safe, healthier environment for clients and staff.
- **L'ARCHE Winnipeg - \$136,362.** To help furnish the new wheelchair accessible home/multi-purpose facility for people with developmental disabilities.

- **North End Housing Project (NEHP) - \$72,450.** To provide 10 at risk youth with work experience in the construction industry and enhance their life skills.
- **Red River Christian Fellowship- \$59,250.** To upgrade and renovate the kitchen and create a permanent food bank area with storage space.
- **YM/YWCA of Winnipeg-\$54,772.** To hire a service coordinator to mobilise community groups and stakeholders to address homelessness and at risk groups in St. Vital.
- **Social Planning Council of Winnipeg- \$62,423.** To complete an assessment of the Community Plan and determine next steps in addressing homelessness.
- **Growing Prospects - \$47,456.** To renovate the existing building to local health standards and codes, and expand increase employment opportunities for five youth at risk.
- **Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba- \$43,132.** To create a steering committee to mobilize community stakeholders to increase awareness of and identify proactive solutions to homelessness in St. Vital and St. Boniface.
- **La Grave - \$33,500.** To assist an estimated four to six community service providers in the St. Boniface and St.Vital area develop proposals to address homelessness.
- **Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba - \$28,517.** To develop a strategic business plan for long-term sustainability of the Serenity House transitional home.
- **Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF)- \$18,700.** To conduct a feasibility study on the needs of at-risk Métis people in Winnipeg.
- **Ka Ni Kanichihk - \$15,000.** To develop a proposal to address the needs of homeless or at risk Aboriginal women in Winnipeg.
- **Whaka Pimadiziiwii Pinaysiiwigamic - \$15,000.** To undertake a feasibility study on location options for Circle of Life Thunderbird House programs.
- **Mount Carmel Clinic - \$11,060.** To complete an assessment of location options for Sage House, a street Women's Health, outreach and resource service.
- **Native Women's Transition Centre - \$10,000 .** To develop a proposal for a "A Healing Place" for Aboriginal female offenders and ex-offenders.
- **Canadian Paraplegic Association (Manitoba) - \$11,060.** To conduct a feasibility study for an emergency transitional housing project for Aboriginal people with spinal cord injury and other physical disabilities who are at high risk of homelessness.

Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI) Funding

In the first three years of the National Homelessness Initiative (NHI), communities in Manitoba received 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.
- \$1.7 million for youth projects under Youth-at-Risk-Homelessness (Youth Employment Strategy); and
- \$9.0 million for Aboriginal-specific projects under the Urban Aboriginal Strategy-Homelessness.

The Government of Canada launched the National Homelessness Initiative in December 1999 to support communities' efforts to help homeless Canadians. Building on the successes achieved, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Minister Claudette Bradshaw recently announced \$405 million for three years to continue the Government's commitment to addressing homelessness in Canada.

The National Homelessness Initiative is making a difference by encouraging the development of flexible, community-driven solutions to help alleviate homelessness. Funding for the Initiative is provided for in the February 2003 federal Budget.

For more information on the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative, visit the NHI Web site at: www.homelessness.gc.ca

- The Canada–Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI) was signed in September 2002 and provides \$50.8 million over five years to help increase the supply of affordable rental units and new housing available in the province. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), on behalf of the Government of Canada, has contributed \$25.39 million, which is matched by the Province of Manitoba. It is anticipated the AHI will create 2,500 units over five years.
- The Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) 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 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.
- The Government of Canada annually supports housing in Manitoba, with approximately \$112 million in grants, contributions and subsidies, which serves 42,750 low-income families, seniors, persons with disabilities, Aboriginal people and victims of domestic violence.

For more information on Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, visit the CMHC Web site at: www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca

Government of Manitoba

Manitoba works cooperatively with the other levels of government to revitalize housing. Projects may be funded with assistance from the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative.

- The Government of Manitoba has committed \$25.39 million, through the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative, to further increase support for the development of safe and affordable housing. Funding support under the New Rental Supply, New Homeownership Supply, Repair/Conversion and Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance Programs is available to support housing proposals.
- 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).
- Neighbourhoods Alive! is a long-term development strategy that provides 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 2003 budget to develop local capacity, innovative training and provide a fund through which local neighbourhoods can implement their revitalization plans.

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

City of Winnipeg

The City of Winnipeg has allocated \$17.5 million over five years under the Winnipeg Housing Policy and the Affordable Housing Initiative to fund housing initiatives in targeted inner-city neighbourhoods:

- The Winnipeg Development Cost Offset Program provides financial assistance up to \$5,000 to assist neighbourhood organizations and proponents to plan and implement quality, affordable housing projects by providing financial assistance for pre-development costs and the reimbursement of City fees.
- The Winnipeg Neighbourhood Housing Plans and Advocacy Program provides financial assistance of up to \$30,000 and other support for community stakeholders to develop a housing plan or strategy to build local capacity, to undertake housing initiatives, and to provide training and support for home ownership and tenancy.
- The Winnipeg Neighbourhood Housing Program provides financial assistance for projects that support the development and implementation of affordable housing and that is consistent with Neighbourhood Housing Plans and strengthen neighbourhood stability. The total assistance is based on an approved proposal and business plan.

- The Winnipeg Minimum Home Repair Program provides financial assistance to owner-occupants to undertake minor critical repairs required for the continued safe and healthy occupancy of homes.
- The Winnipeg Downtown Housing Program provides financial assistance to encourage unique and innovative approaches that support downtown housing development and result in quality, affordable housing by providing financial assistance to proponents. The total assistance is based on an approved proposal and business plan.

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