



# News Release | Communiqué

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 27, 2003

## GOVERNMENTS RENEW HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS PARTNERSHIP

**WINNIPEG – MANITOBA** – Canada, Manitoba and Winnipeg have renewed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) to extend the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI) for another five years. The renewal of the partnership will lead to more safe, affordable housing and programs and services to prevent or alleviate homelessness in Winnipeg.

The MOU was jointly signed today by: the Honourable Steven Mahoney, Secretary of State responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), also representing the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Coordinator on Homelessness, and the Honourable Rey Pagtakhan, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Secretary of State (Science, Research and Development); the Honourable Christine Melnick, Manitoba Minister of Family Services and Housing and His Worship Glen Murray, Mayor of Winnipeg.

“This WHHI partnership was created in response to the community’s needs for assistance in developing projects to help improve the quality of life for Winnipeg residents,” said Secretary of State Mahoney.”  
“The extension of the MOU clearly demonstrates the excellent cooperation among the three levels of government at the WHHI, in working with our community partners to address housing and homelessness issues in Winnipeg.”

"This is a successful partnership that supports community-driven revitalization," said Minister Melnick. "We are pleased to share in the success created by the well-planned efforts of local groups, who have created more safe and affordable housing. It is gratifying to look back on progress and see how we have been able to strengthen so many families, while building communities."

“From the very beginning of this partnership, we emphasized that the role of governments was to provide the money and that residents in the neighbourhoods would provide the solutions,” said Mayor Murray. "That's what's happened, and that's why the first phase of this housing program has been so successful. There is more planning and building to be done. The City is very pleased to be renewing this housing partnership as we continue to renew our older neighbourhoods and create more affordable housing for our citizens.”

The WHHI was established in May 2000 as a three-year, multi-million partnership between the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg, to work with community organizations and help address homelessness, declining housing stock and the revitalization of Winnipeg's older neighbourhoods.

To date, the WHHI has committed over \$41 million for the repair, rehabilitation and construction of 1625 units of housing and 118 rooms or beds in the inner city, as well as to help people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

In order to provide community groups with a central location and easy access to government homelessness and housing programs and services, the WHHI opened a Single Window Office. Located at 361 Hargrave Street, the WHHI serves as a one stop shop for community organizations and helps improve co-operation and information sharing among the three levels of government and community groups.

The WHHI's housing programs are funded by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Manitoba Family Services and Housing and the City of Winnipeg, and homelessness programs are funded through the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative.

Contributions from CMHC come through the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative, Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Programs (RRAP).

The Province of Manitoba provides funds through Neighbourhoods Alive!, Neighbourhood Housing Assistance, the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative, and through the provincial component of RRAP.

The City of Winnipeg has allocated funds through the Winnipeg Housing Initiative and the Affordable Housing Initiative for housing initiatives targeted to inner-city neighbourhoods.

Community groups wanting more information on housing and homelessness programs can call the WHHI at (204) 940-3070.

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