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SPENCE NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSING PROJECTS RECEIVE OVER \$560,000

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA — Residents of the Spence neighbourhood will benefit from the renovation of 15 affordable homes and grants will be available to homeowners and landlords to improve properties in the area. The projects are being made possible with the support of over \$560,000 in funding assistance from the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg, through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI).

The funding is being provided to the Spence Neighbourhood Association, Winnipeg Housing and Rehabilitation Corporation and Lazarus Housing under the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative, Manitoba's Neighbourhood Housing Assistance program and the City of Winnipeg Housing Initiative.

Today's announcement was made to highlight the housing revitalization initiatives underway in the Spence neighbourhood, and to also recognize National Housing Day. The Honourable Christine Melnick, Minister of Manitoba Family Services and Housing; and Glen Murray, Mayor of Winnipeg and Dennis Cleve, Manitoba Corporate Representative for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation participated in the event.

"Providing safe, affordable housing is important to ensuring our citizens enjoy a greater quality of life," said Secretary of State Mahoney. "As part of our ongoing commitment to provide more housing options for Canadians, the federal government, through CMHC, is providing over \$25 million for five years under the joint Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI)."

"I am pleased we are able to support these dedicated neighbourhood groups and their improvement plans that respond to the important need for additional housing for those with low and moderate incomes," said Minister Melnick. "Creating more affordable housing is a key to strengthening families, as we build communities."

"National Housing Day is a great opportunity to recognize the progress that has been made in meeting the housing and homelessness crisis in Canada," said Mayor Murray. "Today we celebrate the provision of more than half a million dollars to repair and renovate up to 15 homes and provide grants in this neighborhood. The City of Winnipeg is delighted to be a one-third partner, along with the province of Manitoba and the government of Canada, in revitalizing our neighbourhoods, one house at a time."

The WHHI is providing \$326,500 to the Winnipeg Housing and Rehabilitation Corporation , \$175,000 to Lazarus Housing and \$60,000 to the Spence Neighbourhood Association for the renovation projects. The properties renovated by WHRC and Lazarus will be available to low-to moderate-income families for purchase or on a rent-to-own basis. The Spence Neighbourhood Association will be providing grants to homeowners and landlords in the neighbourhood.

WHHI funding includes: \$225,500 under the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative New Homeownership Supply Program which is cost-shared on an equal basis by the Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba, \$180,000 through the provincial Neighbourhood Housing Assistance and \$156,000 under the City of Winnipeg's Housing Initiative.

“We are grateful to the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative for this funding assistance that will allow us to provide more quality, affordable homes to needy families in our neighbourhood,” said Wilder Robles, President of the Spence Neighbourhood Association. “The renovations of these homes are a key part of our long-term plan to revitalize the neighbourhood.”

The funding is being coordinated through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative, a partnership established by Canada, 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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SPENCE NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT BACKGROUNDER

- The Winnipeg Housing and Rehabilitation Corporation will receive close to \$327,000 from the WHHI to acquire and rehabilitate eight, single-family homes in the Spence neighbourhood. Total costs are estimated at \$760,000. The renovated properties will be made available to low-to moderate-income families for purchase or on a rent-to-own basis.

WHRC is a registered non-profit organization with experience in renovating and selling homes in the Spence, West Broadway, Point Douglas and William Whyte neighbourhoods.

- Lazarus Housing Inc. is receiving \$175,000 through the WHHI to purchase and rehabilitate seven, single-family houses in the Spence neighbourhood, with total costs estimated at \$630,000.

Lazarus Housing Inc. is a registered non-profit organization with experience in renovating and selling homes in the Spence and Daniel McIntyre neighbourhoods.

- The Spence Neighbourhood Association will also provide grants of up to \$2,500 each, for a total of \$60,000, to homeowners and landlords to improve properties and increase investment in residential properties in the area.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING DETAILS

Government of Canada

- 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. CMHC, on behalf of the Government of Canada, has contributed \$25.4 million, which is matched by the Province of Manitoba. It is anticipated the AHI will create 2,500 units over five years.
- *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.
- 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/

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*.

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

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 2003 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, 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 program will contribute to the revitalization of housing in designated neighbourhoods by providing assistance of up to \$10,000 per dwelling unit to neighbourhood based 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)*.

Through the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative, Manitoba has committed \$25.4 million 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.

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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- Winnipeg Minimum Home Repair Program provides financial assistance to owner-occupants to undertake minor critical repairs required for continued safe and healthy occupancy of homes.
- 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