



# News Release | Communiqué

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 19, 2004**

## **OVER \$1.1 MILLION WILL SPARK CONSTRUCTION OF 22 NEW, AFFORDABLE, ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOMES IN WINNIPEG'S INNER CITY**

**WINNIPEG** - Low-to-moderate income households will soon have access to additional safe and affordable housing in Winnipeg with the construction of 22 new, energy-efficient homes in the Daniel McIntyre, Sargent Park, St. Matthews and Weston neighbourhoods. The project is supported with over \$1.1 million from the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg, through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI). Total project costs are estimated at \$2.9 million.

Today's funding announcement marked National Housing Day and included the official opening of a show home at 996 Sherburn Street. The Honourable Christine Melnick, Manitoba Minister of Family Services and Housing; Anita Neville, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South-Centre, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing; and Deputy Mayor and Councillor for Point Douglas Mike Pagtakhan, on behalf of the City of Winnipeg, participated at today's event.

"This investment is a part of Manitoba's balanced approach to meet Winnipeg's housing need," said Minister Melnick. "Today we are announcing our infill housing program, which is an important part of Manitoba's commitment to increase the supply of affordable homes. We are building new homes in the inner city while working with community groups to revitalize our current housing stock."

"Through our partnership in the WHHI, the Government of Canada is assisting builders to develop attractive, safe, and energy-efficient homes," said the Honourable Raymond Simard, Member of Parliament for Saint Boniface, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing. "This is a great example of government and the private sector working together to create vibrant and healthy communities."

"Winnipeggers identify strongly with their neighbourhoods and they want them to be healthy, safe and vital," said Pagtakhan. "It is therefore very fitting to mark National Housing Day with the announcement of new safe and affordable housing in Winnipeg's inner city. The construction of these homes demonstrates the commitment of all three levels of government to neighbourhood revitalization and to addressing the physical, social, and economic needs of core area residents."

The WHHI funding of \$1.1 million includes up to \$880,000 under the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative's (AHI) New Homeownership Supply Program, cost-shared equally by the governments of Canada and Manitoba, and close to \$249,000 through the City of Winnipeg's Housing Policy Initiative.

Greentree Homes and Streetside Development Corporation were successful bidders in a public proposal call for construction of new homes, issued last year through the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation. Greentree Homes will soon complete a show home at 1578 Logan Avenue, while Streetside constructed the Sherburn Street show home.

The homes will be sold to low-to-moderate-income households and purchasers may also qualify for a forgivable loan of up to \$9,000 if they are first-time homebuyers and have secured mortgage financing from a private lending institution. This assistance is provided under the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative's Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance Program.

"As one of the successful bidders in the Infill Housing Program, Greentree Homes will be offering a choice of two floor plans to suit different lifestyles," says Doug Goodman of Greentree Homes. "Our display home at 1578 Logan Avenue will be a 1,026 square foot, three-bedroom, two-storey, while the second home featured will be an 896 square foot, two-bedroom, bi-level with expansion options."

"We are delighted to participate in this project as our past experience has shown the need for affordable housing for the community," said Randy Wiebe, Manager of Streetside Development Corporation. "Partnership with all levels of government provides an excellent kick start which has every opportunity to build into a longer term enhancement of inner city communities and neighbourhoods."

Homebuyers can choose from four designs, ranging from one or two story homes and two or three-bedroom plans. All the new houses will meet Manitoba Hydro Power Smart standards for new homes and will have design features to make them more accessible for people with disabilities or with mobility limitations.

The projects are coordinated by the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative, a partnership established in 2000 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. To date, the WHHI has committed \$51 million to repair, rehabilitate or build 2041 units and 131 rooms and beds in Winnipeg. 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.

**For more information,**

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