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AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS SLATED FOR WINNIPEG'S WEST END AND CENTENNIAL NEIGHBOURHOODS

WINNIPEG – MANITOBA – Low-to moderate-income residents in Winnipeg's Daniel McIntyre, St. Matthews and Centennial neighbourhoods will soon have access to more affordable housing with the major renovation of 14 homes and the construction of one new energy-efficient home, with up to \$572,000 from the Government of Canada, Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI).

The funding for the Housing Opportunity Partnership (HOP) and North End Housing Project (NEHP), was announced by the Honourable Christine Melnick, Manitoba Minister of Family Services and Housing, the Honourable Raymond Simard, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Internal Trade, Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, and Minister responsible for Official Languages, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing, and Deputy Mayor Mike Pagtakhan, on behalf of the City of Winnipeg, at 636 Alexander Street, the site of one of the homes under renovation.

“Both the Housing Opportunity Partnership and North End Housing Project are a large part of the success story that sums up our efforts through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative to create much-needed, affordable housing and to stabilize and revitalize neighbourhoods,” said Minister Melnick. “These groups are tackling the monumental challenge of renovating or building quality homes for people with low incomes, in a cost-effective manner.”

“The Housing Opportunity Partnership and the North End Housing Project continue to play a key role in providing affordable housing options for Winnipeg residents, first in the west and north ends, and now here in Centennial,” said Simard. “By expanding into the Centennial neighbourhood, the Government of Canada, through the WHHI, is strengthening its efforts to help support sustainable inner-city communities.”

“It's exciting to see the progress being made in these neighbourhoods and to witness the commitment of both the Housing Opportunity Partnership and the North End Housing Project to inner-city revitalization,” said Deputy Mayor Pagtakhan. “I applaud the efforts of the group to provide more safe and affordable housing options, and to promote and strengthen home ownership opportunities.”

Total project costs are estimated at \$1.8 million with the groups contributing the balance of the costs. WHHI funding of \$572,000 for the two projects includes \$410,000 cost-shared by the governments of Canada and Manitoba under the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative's New Homeownership Supply Program, \$150,000 from the provincial Neighbourhood Housing Assistance program and \$11,800 for land and demolition costs through the City of Winnipeg's Housing Initiative.

HOP will receive \$500,000 to purchase and significantly upgrade 14 homes in the Daniel McIntyre and St. Matthews and Centennial neighbourhoods. Renovations are underway on many of the homes and several are currently for sale to low-to-moderate income buyers. Total project cost is estimated at \$1.6 million.

"With these 14 units, HOP will have acquired over 60 homes in Winnipeg's inner-city, of which 50 have been sold and the rest are under renovation or for sale," said HOP President Tom Yauk. "We appreciate the WHHI's support over the years and welcome this additional funding that will enable HOP to continue our efforts to stabilize and revitalize these neighbourhoods."

The North End Housing Project will receive \$71,800, including \$11,800 in land and demolition costs, to construct one affordable and energy-efficient home on a vacant lot in the Centennial neighbourhood. Once completed, the home will be sold to a low-to-moderate-income family. It will be a two-storey, three-bedroom design and will meet Manitoba Hydro R2000 standards for energy efficiency and indoor air quality. Total project cost is estimated at \$131,800.

"We are proud to be a partner with the WHHI and the community in helping develop these important housing initiatives for the Centennial neighbourhood," said Caroline Sorge, General Manager of the North End Housing Project.

The funding is coordinated by the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative, 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. Since 2000, the WHHI partnership has committed close to \$72 million that has or will contribute to the repair, rehabilitation or construction of over 2900 units and 137 rooms or beds, as well as assist the homeless or those at risk of being homeless. 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 information, organizations or citizens can call 940-3070.

Media inquiries:

Brian Williamson
WHHI
(204) 984-0592
e-mail: brian.williamson@servicecanada.gc.ca

Peter Squire, Vice-President
Housing Opportunity Partnership
(204) 786-8854

Caroline Sorge, General Manager
North End Housing Project
(204) 953-1895