



# News Release | Communiqué

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### RENOVATION PROJECTS BOOST AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITMENTS IN WINNIPEG TO OVER 3000 UNITS

**WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, NOVEMBER 22, 2005** — Renovations to a 42 year-old Elmwood apartment block and a north-end duplex will soon provide an additional 36 units of affordable housing for low-income Winnipeg residents. The projects are being made possible with the support of over \$419,000 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).

With this funding announcement, which also marks the annual National Housing Day, the WHHI partnership has committed close to \$72 million that has or will contribute to the repair, rehabilitation or construction of over 3,000 housing units, as well as assist the homeless or those at risk of being homeless.

Today also marked the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Housing Day, which focuses on the ongoing efforts to provide affordable housing solutions for Canadians who need shelter and the necessary support services. Funding was announced by 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; the Honourable Christine Melnick, Minister of Manitoba Family Services and Housing; and Peter De Smedt, Chair of the City's Standing Policy Committee on Property & Development, and Councillor for the St. Charles Ward, on behalf of Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz.

“National Housing Day is an opportunity to recognize the progress being made to address the housing and homelessness issues in Canada,” said MP Simard. “I am delighted that the Government of Canada, the provincial and the municipal governments have together committed over 3,000 units of affordable housing for Winnipeg residents since the WHHI partnership began over five years ago.”

“I am pleased that 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.”

“Over the past five years, the WHHI has made a significant difference,” said Councillor De Smedt. “In marking National Housing Day, I'd like to recognize the efforts and commitment of our government and community partners to revitalizing neighbourhoods and to addressing housing and homelessness needs in our city.”

Funding for the projects includes \$399,000 to Cosmopolitan Club Homes under the Rental Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP), which is cost-shared 75/25 per cent by the Governments of Canada and Manitoba, and \$20,000 to Heart Housing Inc. through the provincial Neighbourhood Housing Assistance (NHA) program. The RRAP program in Winnipeg is delivered by the City of Winnipeg.

Cosmopolitan Club Homes, a non-profit housing group which has been providing affordable housing for over 40 years, will rehabilitate 34 units in an existing 42-year-old apartment building located at 541 Cosmo Place in the Elmwood neighbourhood. The project includes three one-bed units and 31 studio units. The property is owned by Cosmopolitan Club Homes and will be managed by SAM management.

Heart Housing Inc., with volunteer help, will purchase and completely rehabilitate a duplex at 381 College Avenue in the St. John's neighbourhood. The renovated units will provide a homeownership opportunity for two immigrant families through a Rent-to-Own model.

Heart Housing Inc. is a non-profit group that was formed to improve living conditions for low income new Canadians, families who have special disability needs and families who do not yet have the down payment to buy a home. The group's focus is on purchasing and renovating homes, as well as through education and practical hand-on experience, gradually transferring affordable home ownership to the residents. Total project costs are estimated at \$142,000.

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. 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.

**For more information, please contact:**

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