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CANADA AND MANITOBA ANNOUNCE FOUR HOUSING INITIATIVES SUPPORTING LOW-INCOME AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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Announcement Made In Recognition of National Aboriginal Day

WINNIPEG – JUNE 21, 2010 – The Governments of Canada, the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg, today announced \$7.5 million for four Aboriginal housing projects to provide affordable accommodation for Winnipeg’s Aboriginal community.

The Honourable Kerri Irvin-Ross, Minister of Housing and Community Development, Rod Bruinooge, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), and Mike Pagtakhan, city councillor for Point Douglas, made the announcement today in Winnipeg.

“Building affordable housing breathes new life into neighbourhoods by strengthening communities and providing a foundation for families,” said Ms Irvin-Ross. “In communities across this province, HOMEWorks! is helping low-income Manitobans acquire their own homes.”

“Our government is giving a hand-up to Canadians with housing needs, and is helping those seeking to break free of the cycle of homelessness and poverty,” said Mr. Bruinooge. “Through these investments, various organizations in Winnipeg are able to help and support those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.”

“Projects like these that come to life with not only financial support, but support from the neighbourhood empowers those in our community with low-incomes and provides hope for the future,” said Mr. Pagtakhan. “It can turn lives filled with uncertainty into lives that involve a safe, clean and comfortable place to come home to.”

Funding provided for the projects through all three levels of government includes:

- \$4.2 million to Kekinan Housing Inc. to construct a three-storey 30-unit housing complex for low-to-moderate income Aboriginal seniors.
- \$2.3 million to the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development to construct a 15-unit townhouse style complex, consisting of two buildings to provide affordable housing to low-income Aboriginal families.
- \$504,000 to Manitoba Tipi Mitawa Inc for seven low-to-moderate-income first-time Aboriginal homeowners by providing down payment assistance and mortgage subsidies to eligible first-time homebuyers.
- \$500,000 to Winnipeg Habitat for Humanity Inc to assist Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council to construct five homes for Aboriginal families.

Through Manitoba's Long-Term Housing Strategy, HOMEWorks!, the Province of Manitoba and Government of Canada are contributing \$378 million over two years for housing initiatives in Winnipeg and across the province. More information about HOMEWorks! is available at www.gov.mb.ca/housing.

These investments are being delivered through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI), a partnership between the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg. The partners work together to deliver funding provided through each level of government for affordable housing, to address homelessness, and to assist in the revitalization of Winnipeg's older neighbourhoods. Since 2000, the WHHI partnership has committed over \$138 million to repair, rehabilitate, or construct over 5,000 housing units as well as assist those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The WHHI is a single-window office for community organizations to access information on government-funded housing and homelessness programs. For more information, visit www.whhi.ca.

The WHHI housing programs are funded by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Manitoba Housing, and the City of Winnipeg, and homelessness programs are funded through the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnership Strategy (HPS).

These investments are part of the Government of Canada's \$1.9-billion commitment for housing and homelessness announced in 2008. This ongoing funding will ensure that the Government can continue to assist low-income Canadians, seniors, persons with disabilities, recent immigrants and Aboriginal people, including those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Canada's Economic Action Plan has built on these investments by making an additional one time investment of more than \$2 billion over two years in new and existing social housing, and by making available up to \$2 billion in loans to Canadian municipalities over two years for housing related infrastructure improvements. The government's investments are creating jobs, stimulating local economies and improving the quality of life for many Canadians. To learn more about Canada's Economic Action Plan, please visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

The availability of safe and stable housing and related supports is an important element in addressing homelessness and helping individuals who are homeless achieve greater self sufficiency and a better quality of life. The Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) emphasizes longer term supportive and transitional housing by focusing on a housing-first approach to help people make the transition out of the cycle of homelessness.

The HPS partners with Aboriginal organizations to ensure that services meet the precise and unique needs of off-reserve homeless Aboriginal people in cities and rural areas.

For more information on the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, please visit www.hrsdc.gc.ca/homelessness.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ATTACHED

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Project Backgrounder

Kekinan Housing

- Kekinan Housing Inc. is receiving \$3 million under HOMEWorks! Een Dah Aung Rental and Co-operative Housing program for up to 28 units. Additional funding is being provided from Human Resources Service Development Canada (HRSDC) in the amount of \$1,025,000 under the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, the City of Winnipeg in the amount of \$220,000.
- The project includes the construction of a three-storey apartment complex for Aboriginal seniors with low-to-moderate incomes. The new facility is linked to Kekinan Housing Inc.'s existing 30-unit facility located on the same property. The rental units include 23 single units, five units for couples, and two emergency shelter units.

Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development (CAHRD)

- CAHRD has received funding totalling \$2.3 million under the HOMEWorks! Een Dah Aung Rental and Cooperative Housing Program.
- The project, named Neeginan Village Phase II, involves the construction of a 15-unit townhouse style complex, consisting of two buildings, located on Higgins Avenue in the South Point Douglas neighbourhood. This project is intended to provide affordable housing to low-income Aboriginal families. All units will be three-bedroom units. One building includes 10 units and one has five units. The buildings face each other and have a common green/play space between them. Thirteen of the 15 units will be visitable, and two of these units will be fully accessible.

Manitoba Tipi Mitaw Inc.

- Homeownership Program funding of \$504,000 has been approved for up to seven homes in Winnipeg.
- Manitoba Tipi Mitawa Inc. is a non-profit organization established in partnership with Manitoba Real Estate Association and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. The Affordable First Nations Homeownership in Urban Markets Phase II project provides an opportunity for seven low- to moderate-income first-time Aboriginal households to become homeowners by providing down payment assistance and mortgage subsidies to eligible first-time homebuyers.

Winnipeg Habitat for Humanity Inc and Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council

- Habitat for Humanity is receiving funding of \$500,000 under the HOMEWorks! Een Dah Aung Home Ownership Program.
- Habitat has partnered with the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council (DOTC) to construct five homes for Aboriginal families in Winnipeg. The DOTC will recommend families for participation in Habitat's homeownership program. Revenues collected from the five DOTC homes will be reinvested to build more homes targeting Aboriginal families.

Program Backgrounder

HOMEWorks!

In April 2007, the Province of Manitoba unveiled HOUSING First, a four pillar, \$188 million, low-income housing strategy including HOMEWorks! – a \$104.5 million initiative to help provide affordable homes for low-income Manitobans in five areas that were identified by stakeholders to provide a stronger foundations for healthy families and communities. The priorities include: inner-city revitalization; older Manitobans; urban Aboriginals; northern Manitobans; and homeless Manitobans. For more information, please visit www.gov.mb.ca/fs/ and select housing from the left hand side navigation.

Canada-wide Program Extensions

In September 2008 the Government of Canada announced a \$1.9-billion commitment for housing and homelessness, which extended the Affordable Housing Initiative and the renovation programs for low-income households for five years. In Manitoba, these initiatives are jointly funded by the federal and provincial governments through contributions totaling over \$34 million for the next two years.

Canada's Economic Action Plan (CEAP) Canada - Manitoba:

The Government of Canada has allocated \$79 million in Manitoba under Canada's Economic Action Plan as part of a two-year national investment of more than \$2 billion to build new and renovate existing social housing in Canada. The province will also contribute \$79 million for these initiatives over the next two years. For more information on Canada's Economic Action Plan, call 1-800-O Canada.

Canada Mortgage and Housing (CMHC):

To find out more about how the Government of Canada is working to build stronger homes and communities for all Canadians, call CMHC at 1-800-668-2642 or visit: www.cmhc.ca/housingactionplan.

Homelessness Partnering Strategy:

The Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) is a unique community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness by providing direct support and funding to more than 60 communities across Canada. The HPS took effect April 1, 2007, with annual funding of \$134.8 million for two years. Funding for housing and homelessness programs has been extended for another five years, until March 31, 2014. For more information on the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, please visit: www.hrsdc.gc.ca/homelessness.

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