

Winnipeg Housing and
Homelessness Initiative



Programme Logement et
Sans-abri de Winnipeg

Canada

Manitoba



Winnipeg

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WHHI FUNDS MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR WEST END RESIDENTS

WINNIPEG – MANITOBA – Low and moderate income families will soon have increased access to affordable housing with the renovation and sale of 18 homes in the Daniel McIntyre and St. Matthews neighbourhoods. The project is being made possible with the help of up to \$540,000 in funding assistance provided to the Housing Opportunity Partnership (HOP) from the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI).

Today's funding announcement was made during the official opening of 354 Victor, one of the newly renovated homes. The Honourable Steven Mahoney, Secretary of State responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC); the Honourable Christine Melnick, Minister of Manitoba Family Services and Housing; and Glen Murray, Mayor of Winnipeg participated in today's ceremony.

"With this latest project, HOP is increasing its presence in Winnipeg's west end neighbourhood and playing a key role in providing quality, safe and affordable homes for low to moderate income residents living there," said Secretary of State Mahoney. "The Government of Canada, through CMHC, is pleased to be a partner with the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg to combine resources and create new housing opportunities for Canadians and help enhance neighborhood revitalization efforts."

"We are pleased to support Housing Opportunity Partnership, through the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative, in their major rehabilitation of older homes in the inner-city, for the benefit of low- and moderate-income people," said Minister Melnick. "The past success of HOP has brought new people - homeowners - into these areas, which is critical to strengthening families and creating stability in neighbourhoods."

"This announcement today demonstrates the power of partnership to revitalize housing in inner-city neighbourhoods," said Mayor Murray. "Through the City's Housing Initiative, we're able to provide groups such as HOP with the support they need to renovate older homes in order to provide safe and affordable housing for low and moderate income families. House by house, block by block, this partnership is rebuilding Winnipeg's inner-city neighbourhoods."

The renovated homes will be sold to low and moderate income buyers. Total project costs are estimated at \$1.8 million. Funding support through the WHHI includes \$270,000 from the governments of Canada and Manitoba under the Affordable Housing Initiative's New Homeownership Supply Program and \$180,000

through Manitoba's Neighbourhood Housing Assistance program, and up to \$90,000 from, the City of Winnipeg for municipal cost-offsets.

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The Housing Opportunity Partnership is Winnipeg's first and only pure homeownership not-for-profit housing revitalization initiative. It was created by the Winnipeg Real Estate Board in 1997 and was funded initially by accessing money collected by the provincial government from interest earned through real estate broker trust accounts, and from a home equity contribution from Human Resources Development Canada under the former Winnipeg Development Agreement. HOP's mandate is to develop increased homeownership in designated revitalization neighbourhoods through the acquisition and renovation of substandard or derelict single family housing.

To date, HOP has acquired 41 homes in Winnipeg's inner-city west end, of which 34 have been sold, one conditionally sold (354 Victor) and six are under renovation. HOP's focus is on the Daniel MacIntyre and St. Mathews neighbourhoods. These neighbourhoods, along with 12 others, have been identified by the City of Winnipeg as major improvement areas. Most HOP homes are located on Home, Toronto and Simcoe Streets in order to maximize the impact of the group's renovation efforts.

"What started out very modestly in 1998 with HOP's first acquisition has grown significantly to the point five years later where we now have acquired 41 homes in the West End and invested approximately \$2.5 million in housing renewal," said HOP President Tom Yauk. "HOP appreciates WHHI's support over the past two years and welcomes this additional funding which will allow it to renovate at least 18 more homes and stabilize and revitalize a neighbourhood that is already showing positive signs of renewal."

The funding is being coordinated by the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative, a partnership established by Canada, Manitoba and 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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Media inquiries:

Brian Williamson
Communications
Winnipeg Housing and
Homelessness Initiative (WHHI)
(204) 984-0592
e-mail: brian.williamson@hrdc-drhc.gc.ca

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

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
- \$9.0 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 Initiative 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