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MINISTER ANNOUNCES WEST BROADWAY NEIGHBOURHOODS ALIVE! FUNDING

Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade Minister Scott Smith will announce \$836,324 in funding tonight at the West Broadway Development Corporation (WBDC) annual general meeting.

"I am pleased the province has signed a new agreement with WBDC to provide core operating funding for an additional five years with the annual allocation being increased to \$150,000 from \$75,000," said Smith. "Our renewed and enhanced funding commitment will enable WBDC to continue to support the community's successful revitalization efforts and strengthen the corporation's capacity to ensure these improvements are sustained."

In addition, Neighbourhoods Alive! will be providing \$86,324 for five revitalization projects under the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. WBDC will be administering three of these projects:

- Neighbourhood renewal planning – \$10,000 for a broad community consultation to develop a new neighbourhood renewal plan to guide revitalization efforts in West Broadway over the next five years;
- Job resource centre – renewed funding of \$16,650 to continue providing job search support to hundreds of West Broadway residents; and
- The Broadcaster – renewed funding of \$7,000 to continue publication and distribution of a newsletter, which has become a highly-valued resource for local residents, businesses and community organizations.

The other projects include:

- Welcome Place, an after-school program for refugee students. Welcome Place received \$28,256 for a pilot project to provide after-school educational and recreational supports for students at Gordon Bell High School who are refugees from war-affected countries.

- Cornish Child Care Centre, infant centre renovation, phase two. Cornish Child Care Centre received \$24,418 to complete the renovation and furnishing of its infant centre.

“West Broadway is widely regarded as a neighbourhood that is experiencing a rebirth and the development corporation has played a prominent role in this renewal,” said Smith. “Since 2000, the provincial government’s Neighbourhoods Alive! initiative has been proud to be a partner with WBDC in the community’s revitalization efforts.”

To date, the strategy’s Neighbourhood Housing Assistance program has committed over \$1.5 million towards the repair, rehabilitation and construction of 293 housing units in West Broadway. The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund has committed almost \$1.5 million for 60 revitalization projects in West Broadway. The community corporation has had a lead role in co-ordinating these efforts and has also become recognized as a leader in environmentally-friendly green projects.

Neighbourhoods Alive! is the provincial government’s long-term social and economic strategy to support and encourage community-driven revitalization efforts in designated older neighbourhoods in Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson. Programs assist with physical renewal such as housing, local economic development and improvements to safety and well-being.