

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Groups Receive \$750,000 for Homelessness Programs in Hamilton

HAMILTON, Ontario -- July 22, 2002 -- The Community Advisory Board on Homelessness in Hamilton is pleased to announce funding for two projects in Hamilton totaling close to \$750,000 to address and alleviate homelessness. Funding for these projects comes from the Government of Canada's Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI).

All of the funded projects were recommended in the Community Action Plan on Homelessness, which guides the administration of the SCPI funds. Funding announced today will be directed to projects that provide services to support people who are at risk of becoming homeless. These include a temporary emergency family shelter, to be administered by Family Services, Hamilton, and the purchase of a new facility for Greater Hamilton Foodshare.

"We are pleased to be able to support prevention initiatives as well as emergency shelter services," stated Dominic Verticchio, Chair of the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness, "The Community Action Plan on Homelessness identified that no shelter exists in Hamilton for intact families. In the long run the community will be better off if we can effectively help people avoid becoming homeless."

"The Temporary Emergency Family Shelter project is not intended to become a permanent solution to the need for a family shelter. Rather, it provides for enhanced emergency accommodation for families, provides supports and links to needed community services while a more permanent solution is concurrently being developed."

Mr. Verticchio further commented that "although the goal is to eliminate the necessity for foodbanks in the city of Hamilton, the reality is that the need continues to increase, so we must support the acquisition of a larger storage facility to better serve the requirements of this community."

"The needs of homeless people differ as greatly as each individual who finds themselves in this unfortunate situation. That is why it pleases us to work with community organizations, such as Family Services, Hamilton, and Greater Hamilton Foodshare, and the City of Hamilton to help ensure that the wide variety of needs of homeless individuals and families are being addressed," said the Honourable Sheila Cops, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Member of Parliament for Hamilton East, on behalf of the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Coordinator on Homelessness.

"I would like to commend both Family Services, Hamilton, and Greater Hamilton Foodshare for their ongoing commitment to helping those most in need," said Stan Keyes, Member of Parliament for Hamilton West. "It is the generosity of this community and the dedication of local people and organizations that continues to be the catalyst in bringing about positive change in Hamilton."

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The SCPI is part of a 3 year \$753 million investment by the Government of Canada, announced in December 1999, to help alleviate and prevent homelessness across Canada. In total, \$12.9 million is directed to initiatives in Hamilton.

For more information on the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative, visit our Web site at www.hrhc.gc.ca/homelessness

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Media Contacts:

Bill Atanas, City of Hamilton - Social and Public Health Services Department

(905) 546-4502

Terry Whitehead, Minister Copp's Office

(905) 547-7040

David Klug, Minister Bradshaw's Office

(819) 953-5646

BACKGROUND

Local Groups Receive \$750,000 for Homelessness Projects in Hamilton

Federal Riding	Project Type Agency, Project Title, Description	Amount
Hamilton East	Project Type: Capital Agency: Greater Hamilton Food Share Project Title: New Facility Purchase Project Description: To relocate into a larger facility to increase the community's ability to feed the hungry.	\$340,000
Hamilton West	Project Type: Prevention Agency: Family Services, Hamilton - Second Stage Services Project Title: Temporary Emergency Family Shelter Project Description: To provide safe, adequate temporary housing for homeless families who are in crisis.	\$289,570