

The Regional Municipality of Halton

For Immediate Release
FEBRUARY 5, 2002

SIX MORE SCPI FUNDING RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED IN HALTON REGION

Six projects will be receiving more than \$377,655 following the final round of proposals for the \$1 million in Government of Canada funding allocated to homelessness initiatives in Halton in June 2001.

Members of Parliament for the area: Bonnie Brown, Julian Reed, and Paddy Torsney, on behalf of the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness, and Joyce Savoline, Halton Regional Chairman, today announced the recipients of the final round of funding allocated to combat homelessness in the Halton region. The funding has been provided through the Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative (SCPI), under the National Homelessness Initiative which was announced by the Government of Canada in December 1999.

"We are pleased to work with Halton Region in supporting community groups in their efforts to improve the quality of life for those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in Halton. People who are facing homelessness will now have more resources available to them to help them get the support and services needed to get a new start in life," declared the Members of Parliament in a joint statement.

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Funding totalling \$188,605 will go towards four much needed transitional housing units for homeless people located in all corners of the region and will assist families of all sizes. The projects being funded are in Burlington (Burlington Community Church of the Salvation Army), Oakville (Canadian League of African Women), Georgetown (Halton Hills Community Support and Information Services) and Oakville (Salvation Army Oakville Community Church).

A further 10 beds will be added to the Halton Women's Place South, in Burlington. As part of a major capital project, the funds will help an additional 170 women and children annually by providing safe shelter through an increased number of emergency beds for women who have been abused.

The Town Hall Group will receive funding for an initiative that aims to raise awareness among Halton residents about poverty, homelessness and the need for affordable housing. They will also facilitate research to increase understanding of where homeless people are located and media coverage on the issue, as well as meet with community groups and participate in speaking engagements.

SCPI funding is directed at those residents of Halton most in need and aims to alleviate some of the hardships for people living on the streets, in temporary shelters or in locations not meant for human habitation. Through the work of Halton's SCPI Community Advisory, 60 new emergency and transitional beds will be added to the Region's inventory by the end of 2003 and \$1 million in SCPI funds will be distributed to assist more than 1,000 homeless people in the Region.

"Homelessness in Halton is a reality and a lack of homeless support systems are a growing concern," said Savoline. A once hidden crisis, the Halton Community Plan on Homelessness identifies 30 people every two weeks who are literally without shelter in the Region. "The need is great. That is why the Region will continue to identify priorities and implement both short- and long-term strategies aimed at ending homelessness."

The \$305-million SCPI is an essential component of the Government of Canada's \$753-million National Homelessness Initiative. The program is making a difference by assisting the more than 100,000 people across Canada who, on any given night, are without shelter and warmth. Using a community-based approach, SCPI has helped develop solutions that work for communities.

Funding for the Initiative was provided for in the February 2000 federal Budget and is built into the existing financial framework.

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For more information on the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative visit www.hrdc.gc.ca/homelessness

For information on the Halton Region SCPI Initiative, visit the Halton SCPI Web site at www.region.halton.on.ca/SCS/scpi/default.htm

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**BACKGROUNDER
SUPPORTING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS INITIATIVE (SCPI)
HALTON REGION
JANUARY 2002**

Name	Project Name and Outline	Amount
Canadian League of African Women (CLAW)	<p><u>The Shady Baobab</u></p> <p>The project will provide a multicultural and culturally sensitive 2-3 bedroom transitional (emergency) housing facility for homeless individuals and families on Kerr Street in Oakville. Clientele will include visible minority women, youth and single parent families. Support and counselling will also be provided to the families.</p>	\$48,145
Halton Hills Community Support and Information	<p><u>Transition Housing in Halton Hills</u></p> <p>Additional funding for two transitional housing units in Acton and Georgetown. This project received \$28,980 in SCPI funding in November 2001 to rent and furnish an apartment for transitional housing for homeless families in Halton Hills with ongoing support and advocacy to the families.</p>	\$45,464
Salvation Army Oakville Community Church <u>Oakville</u>	<p><u>The Lighthouse Project</u></p> <p>Additional capital funding to complete the first phase of the Salvation Army Lighthouse Project in Oakville. This project received \$450,000 in SCPI funding in November 2001 for the construction and renovation of a facility that will house 40 emergency and transitional beds for adult singles, families with no children and youth (15 to 18 yrs. old). Twenty of the beds will be for emergency use and 16 for transitional housing. Support services, counselling and referrals will also be offered.</p>	\$58,241
Burlington Community Church of the Salvation Army	<p><u>Transition Housing</u></p> <p>A two-bedroom apartment in Burlington will be provided to homeless families in the Region. The apartment will allow for emergency/transitional beds for an average length of stay of seven weeks. A part-time staff person will provide outreach services to the community and support services to the families.</p>	\$36,755

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Town Hall Group	<p><u>Project Information Homeless</u></p> <p>The project will develop a strategy to help make residents of Halton aware of poverty, homelessness and the need for affordable housing. Its aim is to affect an attitudinal shift in the community to help residents realize that there is a homeless problem in the Region and to work together towards a solution. Research will include the location of the homeless, preparation and development of speaking engagements, meetings with community groups and media coverage.</p>	\$39,050
Halton Women's Place	<p><u>Expansion of Halton Women's Place South in Burlington</u></p> <p>The project's aim is to assist in the construction of the Burlington South Halton Women's Place expansion. The funding will expand the facility and add 10 new beds.</p>	\$150,000

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