



News Release Communiqué

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 26, 2002

GOVERNMENTS PROVIDE \$2.9 MILLION TO HELP SALVATION ARMY EXPAND EMERGENCY AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING SERVICES

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA—The Salvation Army has begun extensive renovations to two sites that will provide secure, emergency or transitional supportive housing and programming for people at risk of being homeless in Winnipeg. The projects are being made possible with the help of a contribution of approximately \$2.9 million from the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI).

The funding is being provided to The Salvation Army under the Government of Canada's Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), through the National Homelessness Initiative; and through the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP), which is cost shared by the Government of Canada's Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Manitoba Family Services and Housing.

Today's announcement was made by the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness; the Honourable Tim Sale, Manitoba Minister of Family Services and Housing; Councillor Lillian Thomas, Deputy Mayor, on behalf of Glen Murray, Mayor of the City of Winnipeg; and Major David Oldford, The Salvation Army.

"The National Homelessness Initiative was designed to help community organizations like The Salvation Army build their capacity so that they can continue to provide services for those most in need," said Minister Bradshaw. "I am very pleased that the Government of Canada, through the WHHI, was able to assist The Salvation Army with this family shelter and the emergency shelter. Partnership projects, such as this, will benefit the entire community and provide much needed services here in Winnipeg."

"This support from the WHHI furthers our commitment to strengthening families and building communities," said Minister Sale. "These projects will ensure people who are homeless have a warm place to stay, especially during the harsh winter months. It also helps existing facilities that frequently cannot accommodate all those needing temporary shelter when the weather turns colder."

"There is a broad spectrum of housing needs in our city," said Deputy Mayor Thomas. "This announcement of funding support to The Salvation Army's housing projects for homeless families and individuals represents assistance to our most vulnerable citizens. As a city, we're proud to support The Salvation Army and the tremendous work that they do for our community."

Total project costs are estimated at \$3.2 million, including a \$350,000 contribution from The Salvation Army. The funding will be used to renovate an existing Salvation Army family shelter at 72 Martha Street and to upgrade an unused building at 652 Main Street. The site on Main Street will be used for short-term, emergency shelter when The Salvation Army and Main Street Project shelters are full.

The WHHI is providing \$2.6 million through the SCPI and \$306,000 under RRAP for two projects:

- **\$2.3 million** through the SCPI - To renovate and convert The Salvation Army building at 72 Martha Street into a family shelter that will provide emergency housing, support services, addiction treatment and social programs for families. The renovations will involve converting the second floor into 11-two bedroom and two-three-bedroom, self-contained temporary family housing units with private bedrooms, a washroom and a small eating area. The third floor will be used for a women's residential addiction treatment program where clients can also participate in programs such as basic parenting and lifeskills training. The new family shelter will provide a safe and stimulating environment for children and parents.
- **\$306,000** through RRAP, which is cost-shared 75/25 per cent respectively by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Manitoba Family Services and Housing, for repairs and upgrades to a building at 652 Main Street. This site will be used for emergency shelter for people who are homeless. The repairs ensure the building meets minimum health and safety standards.
- **\$220,825** through the SCPI - To operate the temporary emergency shelter at 652 Main Street and provide an additional 40 beds to be used for short-term, emergency shelter when The Salvation Army and Main Street Project shelters are full, during the winter months. The shelter will be open daily from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. until April 2002.

“The Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative dollars are an answer to a prayer for The Salvation Army,” said Major Oldford. “Since the inception of The Salvation Army Social Services ministry in 1890, we have seen many changes, as well as increased challenges and needs of the family. Through the Family Shelter Program, participants will receive intervention and care aimed toward building stronger families and communities.”

The Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI) is a three-year, multi-million dollar tripartite partnership established by the Government of Canada, Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg to address declining housing stock, homelessness and the revitalization of Winnipeg's older neighbourhoods. To date, the WHHI has committed over \$13 million to help community groups rehabilitate houses and provide assistance to homeless individuals and families, or those at risk of becoming homeless.

Located at 233 Portage Avenue in the Curry Building, the WHHI serves as a Single Window office for community organizations to access information on government-funded housing and homelessness programs. This also helps foster improved co-operation and information sharing between the various levels of government and the community groups. Community groups wanting more information on the programs available can call the WHHI at (204) 940-3070.

Funding for the National Homelessness Initiative was provided for in the December 2001 budget and is built into the existing financial framework.

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

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Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI) Funding

Government of Canada

Under the *National Homelessness Initiative (NHI)*, communities in Manitoba will receive approximately \$24 million:

- \$12.7 million through the *Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI)*, which includes \$10.8 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:

- Close to \$1.7 million for youth projects under *Youth-at-Risk-Homelessness (Youth Employment Strategy)*; and
- \$9.9 million for Aboriginal-specific projects under *Urban Aboriginal Strategy-Homelessness*.
- *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 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.

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

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 2001 budget to develop local capacity, innovative training and provide a fund through which local neighbourhoods can implement their revitalization plans.

BACKGROUND

In addition, under Neighbourhoods Alive! and through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI), 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 will contribute to the revitalization of housing in designated neighbourhoods by providing assistance of up to \$10,000 per dwelling unit to neighbourhood based development/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)*.

City of Winnipeg

- \$7 million over five years under the Winnipeg Housing Policy to fund housing initiatives in targeted inner-city neighbourhoods. Funding is available through several programs:
 - Winnipeg Municipal Cost Offsets Program provides financial assistance up to \$5,000 per housing unit through reimbursement of City fees and other eligible costs.
 - Winnipeg Housing Revitalization Program provides financial assistance up to \$5,000 per housing unit for housing project pre-development costs.
 - Winnipeg Neighbourhood Housing Plans and Advocacy Program provides financial assistance and other support to neighbourhood stakeholders to develop a Neighbourhood Housing Plan.
 - Winnipeg Housing Demonstration Program provides financial assistance to proponents to encourage unique and innovative approaches to addressing inner-city housing issues that result in quality, affordable housing.
 - Winnipeg Minimum Home Repair Program provides financial assistance to owner-occupants to undertake minor necessary repairs required for continued healthy and safe occupancy of homes.