



# News Release | Communiqué

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 18, 2002**

## **WHHI FUNDS YOUTH TRANSITIONAL HOUSING AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

**WINNIPEG, MANITOBA** - Youth who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless will benefit from additional transitional housing and support programs, with the help of funding for Operation Go Home from the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg. The support of up to \$383,000 is being provided through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI).

Operation Go Home is a non-profit organization that addresses critical and urgent youth issues by providing outreach services on the street to homeless and at-risk youth who would not otherwise be reached. The organization has several chapters across Canada.

Participating in today's announcement were: the Honourable Rey D. Pagtakhan, Minister of Veterans Affairs, on behalf of the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour, Secretary of State (Multiculturalism) (Status of Women) and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness; the Honourable Tim Sale, Manitoba Minister of Family Services and Housing; and Lillian Thomas, Deputy Mayor, on behalf of the City of Winnipeg.

"This transitional housing project and support programs, will not only respond to the immediate need for shelter, but also will provide troubled youth with the tools they need to live independently," said Minister Pagtakhan. "Providing safe, quality housing and outreach services for youth at risk is a priority of the Government of Canada and the Winnipeg Community Plan to address homelessness in our city."

"Support for at-risk young people is a focus of our Healthy Child mandate and is representative of our efforts, through the Neighbourhoods Alive! initiative, to improve the quality of life for local residents and provide opportunities for safe and healthy futures," said Minister Sale. "This funding, for both prevention and services, will provide vulnerable children and youth with safe and secure housing and will help them develop to their full potential. This is part of the Manitoba government's commitment to strengthening families and building communities."

"The City of Winnipeg fully supports this safe home initiative to rescue vulnerable youth from the streets and place them into a caring and supportive environment that will help them turn their lives around," said Councillor Thomas. "Operation Go Home is a worthwhile investment in the future of our youth."

Total project costs for this Operation Go Home initiative are approximately \$534,000. The WHHI is contributing up to \$383,000 through the Government of Canada's Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), a key component of the National Homelessness Initiative, the federal-provincial Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) and the City of Winnipeg's Housing Policy initiative. The WHHI funding includes:

- **\$254,254** through the SCPI, of which \$162,684 will support Operation Go Home's Intervention and Support programs including emergency services, prevention education and a housing registry. The remaining \$91,570 will be used for furnishings and staffing costs for the transitional housing project on Furby Street, as well as prevention and intervention support services for four 16 and 17 year-olds and five live-in students who will act as mentors and provide 24-hour limited assistance to the youth. The project will also help the youth complete their education and learn practical life-skills, while living in a safe and supportive environment.
- **\$126,000** through RRAP, which is cost-shared 75/25 per cent respectively by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and Manitoba Family Services and Housing, for renovations and upgrades to the existing residence to ensure it meets minimum health and safety standards.

The Province of Manitoba is also providing a total of \$58,000 through its Healthy Child Manitoba and Neighbourhoods Alive! initiatives. Healthy Child will contribute \$38,000 in operational funds while Neighbourhoods Alive! provided short-term, transitional funding of \$20,000 to Operation Go Home during this project's development. The Winnipeg Housing and Rehabilitation Corporation owns the building which is being managed by Operation Go Home.

Operation Go Home received additional funding of \$36,800 under the Government of Canada's National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention, to hire the Housing Project Co-ordinator who is responsible for meeting the goals of the Transitional Living Program.

“The Operation Go Home Transition House is a direct outgrowth of services offered by our organization, and is an important resource for those youth who in the past, compromised by poverty, have been unable to receive longer term support,” said Mike Walter, Operation Go Home Winnipeg Executive Director. “We are grateful to the WHHI and other contributors for all their support and encouragement, without which this project would not have been possible.”

The Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI) is a three-year, multi-million dollar tripartite partnership established by the governments of Canada, 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 \$10.1 million to help community groups rehabilitate houses and provide assistance to homeless individuals and families, or those at risk of being homeless.

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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 February 2000 budget and is therefore built into the existing financial framework.

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# **BACKGROUND**

## **Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI) Funding**

### **Government of Canada**

Under the *National Homelessness Initiative (NHI)*, communities in Manitoba will receive approximately \$25 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:

- \$1.9 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](http://www.hrdc.gc.ca/homelessness)

### **Government of Manitoba**

- \$8 million over four years for housing in Winnipeg neighbourhoods through the *Neighbourhood Housing Assistance (NHA)* program under the Neighbourhoods Alive! initiative. Neighbourhoods Alive! is a long-term development strategy aimed at providing community groups 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 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.

### **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.