
news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Three hundred transitional homes to be created in Toronto

TORONTO, ONTARIO—Funding for the creation of 305 transitional housing units for families and single people was announced today by the Honourable David Collenette, Minister of Transport, on behalf of the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness and Toronto City Councillor Brad Duguid, Chair of the City’s Community Services Committee. Transitional housing addresses the needs of people who may have been homeless a long time, or for other reasons require support services to help them access and maintain more permanent affordable housing in the future.

The Government of Canada is providing \$11.3 million in funding through its Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), which will go to 12 community groups who successfully bid for funding assistance. An additional \$1.5 million in federal SCPI funding is also being allocated to expand the Native Men’s Residence emergency shelter by 22 beds and to build a new 70-bed shelter on Danforth Avenue. Operating funding for the new shelter beds will be shared between the province and the City of Toronto.

This funding is part of the \$53-million federal funding Toronto will receive over three years for projects and services that address homelessness. Under its Community Plan for Homelessness, Toronto designates 40% of SCPI funding for transitional housing.

“The partnerships announced today will enable community organizations in Toronto to better address the well-being of people in need in our communities,” said Minister Collenette. “This is a clear example of the Government of Canada’s commitment to working with our partners to find new and successful ways of combating homelessness in Canada. This approach is based on the premise that communities are best positioned to develop effective, efficient strategies to meet these challenges.”

Total project costs for the 305 new transitional housing units come to \$25.8 million. Community groups are matching SCPI funds with substantial funding from the Province of Ontario, the private sector, mortgages, donations, in-kind contributions and their own resources such as land or mortgages on their existing properties.

Projects are a combination of new construction, renovation or conversion of existing buildings to create a mix of units ranging from single rooms to four-bedroom apartments. When completed, this transitional housing will serve youth, families, women, men, refugees and people experiencing mental health or addiction issues.

The City's Let's Build team is facilitating planning and development of these projects, some of which will be completed by the end of the year. Let's Build is the City of Toronto's affordable housing development program that helps community and commercial developers build affordable housing. Let's Build helps groups gain access to funding assistance and municipal incentives such as a waiver of development charges for non-profit housing.

"The development of transitional housing means we are providing real options for people to leave shelters or unsustainable housing conditions," said Toronto Councillor Brad Duguid. "This is an important step in resolving homelessness in Toronto."

A second round of transitional housing proposals will be launched this fall.

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

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