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Local Groups Receive over \$8 Million for Homelessness-Relief Programs

Ottawa: Over \$8 million was announced today for 44 groups in Ottawa for projects that aim to prevent and end homelessness. Mayor Bob Chiarelli made the announcement with the support of the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness, the Honourable John Baird, Ontario's Minister of Community and Social Services, and Ottawa Councillor Alex Munter, Chair of the City's Health, Recreation and Social Services Committee. Today, a total of \$8,261,823 million is being announced for organizations in the City of Ottawa. Funding partners include the Government of Canada (\$6,765,937), City of Ottawa (\$1,131,893) and the Province of Ontario (\$363,993). Funds provided by the federal government have been matched by contributions from partners including the Province of Ontario, the city of Ottawa and the private and voluntary sectors. "Homelessness is a challenge that no single government or organization can solve on their own," said Minister Bradshaw. "We recognize that a continuum of supports at the local level works best. I am very pleased that through our partnership with the City of Ottawa and the Province of Ontario, community groups who are best placed to combat homelessness will receive the support they need to meet this challenge in Ottawa." Federal funding is being allocated through the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), the cornerstone of the Government of Canada's \$753 million Homelessness Initiative. In total, Ottawa will receive more than \$17 million to address homelessness. "This is money that is desperately needed and definitely well-spent," says Mayor Bob Chiarelli. "On any given night in Ottawa, close to 800 men, women and children are without permanent housing and are living in shelters or on the street. And thousands more are one rent cheque away from eviction. The City of Ottawa is partnering with other levels of government and other organizations to find solutions for this crisis." Councillor Alex Munter agrees and sees hope in this announcement. "The number of applications that were made for these funds – over 130 – proves there is tremendous energy, motivation and creativity in the community to find real permanent solutions to our housing crisis. Today's announcement shows how government investments in the community can help real people in real ways." The province's ongoing support to address homelessness in Ottawa includes funding of more than \$5.6 million this year, in addition to more than \$6 million of provincial support for Ottawa's emergency hostels. "I'm encouraged to see all three levels of government and community organizations working together to address such a complex issue like homelessness," said Minister Baird. "We want to ensure there's a warm bed available for everyone this winter, and today's announcement, along with the ongoing financial commitment by the province, will go a long way towards helping more people out of the cold." A call for project proposals was sent out in September and an independent selection committee reviewed the applications. The successful applicants best addressed the critical issues identified in Ottawa's Community Action Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Contact / Renseignements : City of Ottawa David Klug
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