
news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Government of Canada announces \$270,000 in funding for North Bay homelessness project

NORTH BAY (ONTARIO) — The Government of Canada is working in partnership with Low Income People Involvement (LIPI) Inc., a North Bay community group, to alleviate homelessness and help those at risk of becoming homeless. To help the group's efforts, Bob Wood, Member of Parliament for Nipissing, on behalf of the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness, today announced that the Government of Canada will invest \$270,000 to help address homelessness in North Bay.

“The Government of Canada is committed to working with communities across Canada to find solutions to homelessness,” said Mr. Wood. “This project brings together key partners including governments, private sector and community-based organizations to ease and prevent homelessness in this area. I congratulate LIPI for their work and leadership.”

The Government of Canada will provide the funding to LIPI through its Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), under the National Homelessness Initiative. The funding will be used to hire staff and enhance and augment services provided by the Housing Services Depot and supports the priorities identified in the North Bay Community Plan. The Housing Service Depot provides a one-stop access to information, referral, emergency financial assistance and advocacy services for people in North Bay who are about to lose their homes, or who need assistance finding safe, secure and affordable accommodation.

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“LIPI is thrilled that the Government of Canada has recognized the need for them to be an integral player,” said Lana Mitchell, Executive Director, LIPI. “We look forward to continued team work with all of our existing partners, especially the private sector, who are key to ensuring sustainable supports in our community. Only by working together can we provide the supports necessary to promote dignity past the crisis and pave the path to stability for those in need.”

“With this announcement, the local community benefits from the support of all three levels of government in its work to alleviate homelessness,” said Bob Barraclough, Manager of Community Housing Services and Planning. “Close to 150 individuals and organizations participated in the development of the Initiatives Against Homelessness strategies which were translated into the key elements of our Community Plan in North Bay. All of the participants recognize that support through SCPI is a significant step forward for our community.”

The SCPI enables communities to bring together various partners to develop local solutions to their particular homelessness needs and issues. The Government of Canada’s National Homelessness Initiative also includes expansion of existing programs for youth and Aboriginal peoples, enhancement of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation’s renovations and shelter programs, and making surplus federal properties available for homelessness related activities.

Since the launch of the National Homelessness Initiative in December 1999, the Government of Canada has approved 104 Youth, Aboriginal and SCPI projects in Ontario. The National Homelessness Initiative is making a difference in addressing this issue by using a community-based approach to help develop solutions that work.

Funding for the National Homelessness Initiative was provided for in the February 2000 budget and is therefore 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-drhc.gc.ca/nsh-snsa

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