

The Regional Municipality of Halton

For Immediate Release  
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## **LOCAL GROUPS TO RECEIVE \$770,000 TO HELP AREA'S HOMELESS**

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Joyce Savoline, Halton Region Chairman and Bonnie Brown, Member of Parliament for Oakville, on behalf of Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness, today announced that five local organizations will receive \$770,000 in funding from the Government of Canada for projects to prevent and alleviate homelessness in Halton Region.

Halton Region Chairman, Joyce Savoline and Federal MP, Bonnie Brown provided further details of the funding today at a reception held at Halton Hills Community Support and Information Centre in Georgetown, one of the groups receiving funding: \$557,180 of the \$769,691 will be administered by Halton Region while \$212,511 will be provided by Human Resources Development Centre (HRDC) Homeless Youth Special Project funding. This is the first installment of the \$1 million in federal funding allocated to combat homelessness in Halton under the Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative (SCPI), part of the National Homelessness Initiative, announced in December 1999.

“Homelessness is a challenge that no single government or organization can solve on its own,” said Ms Brown. “We recognize that a continuum of supports at the local level works best. I am very pleased that through our partnership with the Halton Region, community groups who are best placed to address homelessness will receive the support they need.”

"Homelessness in Halton is a reality and a lack of emergency homeless support systems, including emergency and transitional housing, are a growing concern and we are committed to finding solutions," said Savoline. "The Region will continue to identify priorities and implement both short and long-term strategies aimed at ending homelessness."

This round of requests for proposals for SCPI funding was announced in September 2001 and was limited to organizations that had the capacity to meet priorities as set out in the Halton Region Community Plan on homelessness. That is, the organizations had to have the ability to create emergency or transitional housing or provide supportive and community capacity building capabilities to meet the needs of the homeless in Halton Region by March 31, 2003.

The selection committee is made up of informed and involved individuals including Halton Region Staff, Regional Councilors and representatives from local community organizations. "This funding is a great boost to the community," said Esther Clark, SCPI Committee Chair. "It will help us increase the services we are currently providing for our homeless as we attempt to meet the growing demand."

Today's announcement builds on the \$1,000,835 million in funding announced for homelessness initiatives in Halton in June 2001. The second round of requests for project proposals is due at the end of November 2001.

The SCPI brings together various partners to develop local solutions to homelessness challenges faced by communities across Canada. These local solutions help develop a more seamless web of supports for homeless individuals and families. The \$305-million SCPI is a key component of the Government of Canada's \$753-million National Homelessness Initiative, a program that is making a difference by using a community-based approach to help develop solutions that

work for communities. Through the SCPI, communities in Ontario will receive over \$99 million to prevent and alleviate homelessness.

Funding for the National Homelessness Initiative was provided for in the February 2000 Federal budget and is therefore built into the existing financial framework.

- 30 -

For more information on the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative, visit our web site at [www.hrhc-drhc.gc.ca/nsh-snsa](http://www.hrhc-drhc.gc.ca/nsh-snsa).

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