
news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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York Region Community Plan Approved – Homeless and those at risk to benefit

NewMarket, Ontario – The Government of Canada today announced that the York Region Community Plan on Homelessness has been approved. Under this plan, \$1.6 million in funds will be made available to alleviate homelessness in the York Region.

Members of Parliament Maurizio Bevilacqua, the Honourable Elinor Caplan, Karen Kraft-Sloan, Allan Tonks and Brian Wilfert announced the funding on behalf of the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness. The funding comes from the Government of Canada’s Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), under the National Homelessness Initiative.

“Members of the community in the York Region have developed this plan to find and address solutions to homelessness in our area. The Government of Canada is pleased to partner with communities to develop effective strategies to address homelessness. We are committed to working together to find local solutions,” declared the Members of Parliament in a joint statement.

Developed by a local steering committee comprised of government and community representatives, the plan is the community’s vision of how best to help the homeless. The plan is a product of a consultative process involving all stakeholders interested in addressing homelessness in a particular community. The community identifies assets, gaps and priorities that meet local requirements to both prevent and reduce homelessness. The community plan provides a foundation for community action that can build on the community’s assets and begin to address some of the identified gaps.

“York Region can now build upon the long-term strategies adopted by Council to address homelessness,” says York Regional Chair Bill Fisch. “These strategies include improving services and better meeting the needs of the homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless.”

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. The National Homelessness Initiative is making a difference in addressing this issue by using a community-based approach to help develop solutions that work.

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

The Regional Municipality of York is committed to providing cost-effective, quality services to respond to the needs of our rapidly growing communities. York Region is comprised of the following nine area municipalities: Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, King, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Whitchurch-Stouffville. For more information, visit our Web site at: www.region.york.on.ca

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