



news release

April 19, 2001
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Government of Canada, ALFDC partner to combat homelessness in Hamilton

HAMILTON, ONTARIO— The Government of Canada and the Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle (ALFDC) today signed an agreement that will provide \$300,000 in federal funds to address homelessness among urban Aboriginal people in Hamilton. The agreement was announced today by the Honourable Sheila Copps, Minister of Canadian Heritage, on behalf of the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness, and Steve Williams, Chairperson of the ALFDC.

“The Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle is a key player in the battle against homelessness,” said Minister Copps. “I can’t think of a better partner to meet the challenges faced by First Nations people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.”

“This agreement is an important part of our commitment to supporting culturally sensitive solutions to the homelessness challenges being faced by urban Aboriginal people,” said Ralph Goodale, Minister of Natural Resources and Federal Interlocutor for Metis and Non-Status Indians.

Funding is made available through the Urban Aboriginal Strategy component of the Government of Canada’s \$753-million Homelessness Initiative. Since its launch in December 1999, more than \$145 million has been invested in homelessness initiatives.

According to Steve Williams, Chairperson of the ALFDC, “the \$1.5 million will provide an adequate beginning for the development of strategies to deal with the problems of homelessness amongst Aboriginal people in urban settings.” He went on to state he is “looking forward to the government of Canada’s continued partnership in the strategy until we have been able to eradicate homelessness amongst all Aboriginal peoples in this region.”

Under the agreement, the ALFDC will receive \$1.5 million in federal funds for the 2000-2001 fiscal year. The agreement provides \$300,000 for Hamilton, \$664,500 for Toronto and \$535,500 for Ottawa. In Hamilton, the ALFDC will deliver homelessness programs for urban Aboriginal people through the Niagara Peninsula Aboriginal Area Management Board.

Funding for the 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 Homelessness Initiative, visit our web site at www.hrdc.gc.ca/homelessness

Contacts:

Bob Howsam
Human Resources Development Canada
(416) 954-7810

Steve Williams
Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle
(416) 925-1331

David Klug
Office of the Minister of Labour
(819) 953-5646