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# news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Government of Canada, ALFDC partner to combat homelessness in Ottawa, Hamilton and Toronto**

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**OTTAWA, ONTARIO** — The Government of Canada and the Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle (ALFDC) today signed a \$1.5 million agreement to address homelessness among urban Aboriginal people in Ottawa, Toronto and Hamilton. The agreement was announced today by the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness, and Steve Williams, Chairperson of the ALFDC.

“This agreement is another example of the Government of Canada’s commitment to working with our partners to combat homelessness,” said Minister Bradshaw. “The Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle is best positioned to develop effective homelessness strategies for urban Aboriginal people in large Ontario cities.”

“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.”

Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle will deliver homelessness programs through local organizations that include Kagita Mikam in Ottawa, Miziwe Biik in Toronto, and the Niagara Peninsula Aboriginal Area Management Board in Hamilton. These organizations will assist urban Aboriginals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in making transitions to the labour market.

The agreement provides \$535,500 for Ottawa, \$664,500 for Toronto and \$300,000 for Hamilton for the 2000-2001 fiscal year.

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](http://www.hrdc.gc.ca/homelessness)**

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