



news release

**June 4, 2001
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Local Groups Receive \$14.8 Million for Homelessness Programs in Toronto

TORONTO, ONTARIO — Nearly \$15 million was announced today for more than 60 projects in Toronto that will help address and alleviate homelessness. The Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness and Toronto Councillor Brad Duguid made the announcement on site at 25 Leonard Avenue, a project that will receive \$4.6 million to build transitional housing for homeless people.

Funding partners for the 60 projects include the Government of Canada (\$8.2 million), the City of Toronto (\$4.6 million) and the Province of Ontario (\$2 million).

Today's announcement builds on the \$1.9 million in SCPI funding awarded in March to assist 34 community-based organizations that deal directly with homelessness.

“We are working hard with the community to reduce and prevent homelessness,” said Minister Bradshaw. “I am very pleased that the community groups and organizations who are best placed to combat homelessness will receive the support they need from all levels of government.”

“These projects being announced here today, including 25 Leonard, are an excellent example of what is taking place all across the city,” said Councillor Brad Duguid, chair of the city's Community Services Committee. “All levels of government must continue to work together to support these community efforts.”

Other projects being funded under today's announcement include transitional housing, and support services for the homeless. The funds will be used for a wide variety of purposes, from

upgrading infrastructure and facilities to providing case management services to assist homeless people in accessing housing, health services, banking, income support and employment opportunities.

"I am very excited that this project is now underway," said Rev. Brian Burch, president of the St. Clare's Multifaith Housing Society, referring to this new approach to housing people who have been homeless for some time. "Transitional housing is desperately needed in Toronto."

Federal funding for these projects is being allocated through the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), the cornerstone of the Government of Canada's \$753 million Homelessness Initiative. Toronto will receive \$53 million over three years under the SCPI for service programs and capital projects.

City of Toronto funding includes contributions from its Hostels Capital Programs Fund and \$800,000 worth of City-owned land.

"The Government of Ontario is providing more than \$100 million in new initiatives to build on the more than \$2 billion the province spends each year to help people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless," said Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Chris Hodgson.

Government of Canada 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/nsh-snsa

See attached backgrounder for description of projects.

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Backgrounder

June 4, 2001

\$14.8 Million in Funding for Projects to Alleviate Homelessness in Toronto

Almost \$15 million was announced today for more than 60 projects in Toronto that will help address and alleviate homelessness. Funding partners include the Government of Canada (\$8.2 million), the City of Toronto (\$4.6 million) and the Province of Ontario (\$2 million).

Federal funding for these projects is being allocated through the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI). Toronto will receive \$53 million over three years under the SCPI for service programs and capital projects. Projects selected for funding are consistent with the *Community Plan for Homelessness in Toronto* developed by the City of Toronto through the Government of Canada's SCPI. This plan was developed in consultation with more than 50 community groups.

The funding announced today is in addition to the \$1.9 million in SCPI funding awarded in March to assist 34 community-based organisations that serve homeless people or people at high risk of becoming homeless.

25 Leonard Avenue

Total Project Cost: \$4.7 million

Contributions:

- **SCPI: \$2.25 million**
- **Government of Ontario: \$2 million**
- **City of Toronto: \$400,000**
- **St. Clare's Multifaith Housing Society: \$150,000**

St. Clare's Multi-Faith Housing Society, a charitable organisation, is developing this project, designed to help homeless people make the transition from homelessness to permanent housing. St. Clare's will convert a four-storey medical building into 49 one-bedroom and two two-bedroom suites of transitional housing. The average unit will be 31m² and rent for about \$325 per month.

The Government of Canada is providing a capital grant to purchase the building and contribute to the cost of rehabilitating and converting it for transitional housing. The Government of Ontario is contributing to the project with a five-year funding commitment from its Rent Supplement program.

The City's Let's Build program is facilitating planning and development for this project. Toronto has also approved a contribution of \$275,000 in initial capital funding from the Mayor's

Homeless Initiative Reserve Fund and is also waiving municipal fees and charges worth over \$100,000. St. Clare's is committed to raising at least \$150,000 toward capital costs.

Partners for Access and Identification Project

Total Project Budget: \$1.1 million

SCPI Contribution: \$552,622

Partners for Access and Identification Program (PAID) is a program that helps vulnerable people get the identification needed to access health care, sources of income such as pensions, and other services. Due to the nature of street life, homeless people's ID is often lost or stolen. Without basic ID such as a Social Insurance Number, they cannot get access to basic services or find employment. Identification can be the key that unlocks doors such as being eligible to stay in a youth shelter or gaining access to housing.

Six outreach workers help over 600 people per month obtain personal identification such as birth certificates, landed papers, health card, convention refugee letters, refugee eligibility letters, Indian status and Social Insurance cards. The PAID project also connects people to other services such as primary health care facilities, sources of housing and food, other programs and community-based supports.

In addition to SCPI funding, the Project expects to raise \$144,000 and receives in-kind contributions from a range of community partners including St. Michael's Hospital, which has generously supported the PAID project through a \$150,000 contribution to cover the costs of identification fees.

Street Involved Youth Program (SIYP)

SCPI Contribution: \$550,127

The Street Involved Youth Program (SIYP) is a unique program for street-involved youth that combines lifestyle stabilisation with specific job skill development. SIYP provides a safe, supportive environment that prepares youth gradually for entry into fulltime or part-time work, further training or educational opportunities.

The City of Toronto's Social Development and Administration Division manages the program and a consortium of community agencies delivers it, lead by YouthLink Inner City Drop-In. Other consortium member agencies include Shout Clinic, All Aboard Youth Ventures, Evergreen Yonge Street Drop-In and St. Christopher House.

Small Capital Improvements (57 approved projects)

SCPI Contribution: \$2.1 million

This funding will go to community-based organisations for building improvements and equipment purchases meant to enhance programs and services for homeless people or people at risk of becoming homeless.

The projects approved for funding will help local organisations address such basic and immediate needs as places to sleep, food preparation, shower and laundry facilities, storage space and transportation to take people from the streets and into shelter.

Most funding for homeless services to date has been targeted to direct service delivery and so much of the existing service infrastructure is in poor repair. These small, one-time capital investments will generate long-term service enhancements by allowing programs to continue operating for a longer period.

28 Bathurst Street

Total Project Cost: \$6.9 million

Contributions:

- **City of Toronto: \$4.2 million**
- **SCPI: \$2,692,375**

This project is a transitional residence and childcare centre being developed by the City of Toronto. The residence portion of the development will result in 75 transitional residence beds for single men. An additional 24 transitional housing units will be part of the development, offering self-contained units.

The development is at the northern portion of 28 Bathurst Street, a vacant parcel of city-owned land. The City will operate both the childcare centre and the transitional residence.

Toronto Council has already approved this development, subject to all terms and conditions and a matching contribution from SCPI. Proposed city contributions include \$800,000 worth of city-owned land, \$2.1 million from the Hostels Capital Programs Fund and \$1.3 million from the Child Care Capital Reserve Fund.

The project is receiving a capital contribution from the Government of Canada's Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative of just under \$2.7 million. The Government of Ontario will be providing subsidies through its Hostel Per Diem funding for the transitional beds.