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# news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Prince Albert receives funding for homelessness relief

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**PRINCE ALBERT, SASKATCHEWAN** – Ralph Goodale, Minister of Natural Resources, on behalf of the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Coordinator on Homelessness, today announced \$600,000 to assist the homeless in Prince Albert. The funding comes from the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI).

“The Community Action plan has been developed by and for local people to find solutions to homelessness in Prince Albert,” said Minister Goodale. “Our government’s approach is based on the premise that communities are best positioned to develop effective, efficient strategies that will help prevent and alleviate homelessness.”

The Plan identifies four priorities: Emergency Housing (to receive 60 per cent of funding), Transitional Housing (20 per cent), Support Services and Continuum of Supports (10 per cent each). The plan was drawn up by a steering committee that considered input from many sources, including two community forums on January 25, 2001.

"The members of the Prince Albert Housing Committee have worked tirelessly to develop an action plan to address homelessness in their community," Saskatchewan Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Ron Osika said. "Members of the committee are to be commended for their dedication, co-operation and hard work on behalf of the citizens of Prince Albert."

“The Prince Albert Community Action Plan on Homelessness addresses the needs of local people who are homeless or living in substandard conditions and provides the foundation for implementing housing solutions along the continuum of housing needs,” Jim Stiglitz, Prince Albert City Councillor and Chairman of the Prince Albert Homelessness Sub-committee, said.

All three levels of government, along with First Nations and Metis governments and local social agencies, are represented on the Prince Albert Housing Committee, which will assess proposals and evaluate progress relative to the Prince Albert Community Action Plan on Homelessness. The federal contribution will be dispersed through March 31, 2003. The City of Prince Albert and other partners in the effort will make further contributions of money and/or in-kind resources.

The Plan looks at both housing and related supports, from a state of homelessness through to permanent housing with or without support and creates options for partnerships involving non-profit, public, and private sectors of the community.

The \$305-million SCPI, the cornerstone of the Government of Canada's \$753-million Homelessness Initiative, sponsors broad partnerships to support actions identified by committees to alleviate and prevent homelessness. Under SCPI, communities in Saskatchewan will receive more than \$3.5 million over three years to address homelessness.

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