



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Government of Canada invests \$128,000 to help alleviate homelessness in Metro area

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA — Mr. Geoff Regan, Member of Parliament for Halifax West, on behalf of the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Coordinator on Homelessness, today announced that the Government of Canada has invested \$128,100 in homelessness-related projects in the Metro Halifax area through the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI).

The Salvation Army Halifax Booth Centre received \$49,943 and the Centre for Diverse Visible Cultures received \$78,157.

“The partnerships in these projects represent the level of cooperation taking place in this community,” said Regan. “We are delighted to see the number and calibre of partners involved in establishing community-based solutions, which help those in need, to make strides to a more stable life.”

These projects were reviewed and recommended by the Community Action on Homelessness Steering Committee, a working group comprising community organizations dedicated to reducing homelessness in the area.

“These two projects will assist caring out the objectives of the Community Action Plan on Homelessness and will be a tremendous asset to the community, at large,” said Patricia Richards, Coordinator, Community Action on Homelessness.

Since the launch of the Homelessness Initiative in December 1999, the Government of Canada has approved more than \$5.2 million for Youth, Aboriginal and SCPI projects in Nova Scotia. For SCPI alone, communities in Nova Scotia will receive more than \$6.4 million to help prevent and alleviate homelessness.

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The SCPI enables communities to bring together partners to develop local solutions to their particular homelessness needs and issues. The SCPI is a key component of the Government of Canada's Homelessness Initiative, which 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.

Funding these projects was provided for in the February 2000 budget and is therefore built into existing financial framework.

A description of funded projects is attached.

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Backgrounder

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE (SCPI)

PROJECTS – HALIFAX METRO

SALVATION ARMY HALIFAX BOOTH CENTRE

The Salvation Army Halifax Booth Centre provides emergency overnight and long-term residency for men 19 years and older. The centre helps its clients to set goals and supports them spiritually, physically, mentally and socially while they move forward with their lives. In-house rehabilitation programs provide support to those who are recovering from alcohol, drug and gambling abuse.

The \$49,943 investment by the Government of Canada will enable Salvation Army Halifax Booth Centre to renovate and upgrade the washroom and kitchen in their living area. The centre will also obtain new beds, mattresses, dressers and lockers for the private rooms, new beds for the overnight sleeping quarters and equipment for leisure activities in the recreation facility.

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CENTRE FOR DIVERSE VISIBLE CULTURES

The Centre for Diverse Visible Cultures is a community-based, non-profit organization that encourages and helps visible minorities enhance their community and lifestyle. Federal funding of \$78,157 will enable the centre to administer an innovative voice mail system designed to provide access to telephone and messaging services to all Canadians, immigrants and refugees without regard to ethnic or nationality of origin.

The community voice mail system operates similar to a personal answering machine. Each user will receive a unique, seven-digit telephone number and private numerical pass code to retrieve and record greetings from a touch-tone telephone. The community voice mail system empowers individuals to conduct their daily lives with dignity by providing them with a connection to prospective employers, services and society without revealing their personal situation.

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