



News Release

December 20, 2001
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Handicapped Housing Society of Alberta for low-income households to receive \$3.44 million in funding.

Edmonton, Alberta – The Edmonton Housing Trust Fund (EHTF) today announced more than \$3.44 million to help combat the lack of affordable long-term supportive housing and the issue of homelessness in Edmonton. This funding is one of the many ways the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund in partnership with the three levels of government and the community is fighting homelessness and the need for affordable housing in Edmonton, especially for persons with disabilities and mobility issues.

Tom Forgrave, Chair of the Board of Trustees indicated this new construction project will help 56 very low-income households. Eight units will be for larger families, 24 for single parent families, and 24 for one-person households. 28 of the units will accommodate persons with a variety of mobility issues, the other 28 units will be an adapted design for the needs of individuals in wheel chairs. "The Edmonton Community Plan identifies ten percent of all projects to be either accessible or adapted, this project increases that stock significantly." said Mr. Forgrave.

In addition to the funding from the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund the Handicapped Housing Society of Alberta is also receiving the proceeds from the third annual "No Room In The Inn" campaign of the Edmonton and District Council of Churches, the Quality of Life Commission, and the Social Justice Commission of the Archdiocese of Edmonton. The "No Room In the Inn" program is an annual appeal for local churches in the Edmonton area to share their Christmas Eve collections with people in need of safe, affordable housing. In previous campaigns, proceeds have gone to the Edmonton Inner City Housing Society, and The Urban Manor Society, both of which have also received EHTF Funding.

Dave Haut, Executive Director of the Handicapped Housing Society of Alberta said "We are very pleased to have been able to work with the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund. Projects like this one are all about partnerships and community co-operation." He added, "Thanks to the hard work and effort of a lot of good people we will be able to provide homes for those in our community who are most in need of safe, affordable and accessible accommodation."

Funding for Edmonton Housing Trust Fund initiatives dealing with homelessness currently come from all three levels of government. This includes funding from the Government of Canada's Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative, under the National Homelessness Initiative, the Government of Alberta's Homelessness Initiative and the City of Edmonton's donation agreement.

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For additional information, and detailed backgrounders on this and other projects funded by the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund, please check out our web site at www.ehtf.ca.

For more media information please contact:

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**The Edmonton Housing Trust Fund
Partnership Agreements**

The Edmonton Housing Trust Fund (EHTF) works in partnership with the three levels of government and the community. One of the main functions of the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund is to serve as the funding vehicle for affordable housing in Edmonton by consolidating public, not-for-profit, and private sector funding in one place so that it can be used to meet the highest priority needs in Edmonton. The EHTF has funding agreements with the Government of Canada, the Province of Alberta, and the City of Edmonton under various programs to support this mandate.

Government of Canada

Funding for this project has been provided under the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) of the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative (NHI). The Edmonton Housing Trust Fund will receive approximately \$17 million over three years under the SCPI program. NHI funding is also provided in Edmonton for youth projects under the Youth-at-Risk-Homelessness component of the Youth Employment Strategy (\$1.8 million); and for Aboriginal-specific projects under Urban Aboriginal Strategy—Homelessness (\$3,464,100). NHI programs fund projects that address the needs identified in the Edmonton Community Plan on Homelessness, which was developed to find solutions for Edmonton's homelessness issues.

Funding for this project was provided for in the February 2000 federal Budget and is built into the existing fiscal framework.

For more information on the Government of Canada National Homelessness Initiative, visit their Web site at www.hrdc.gc.ca/homelessness.

For more information please contact:
David Klug
Minister Bradshaw's Office
(819) 953-5646

Government of Alberta

Through the provincial Homelessness Initiative, Alberta Seniors (Ministry responsible for Housing) allocates funds on a year-to-year basis to community-based organizations in each of the seven major urban centres (i.e., Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Grande Prairie, and Fort McMurray), in accordance with approved community plans and based upon the program criteria.

For more information on the Government of Alberta's Homelessness Initiative, visit the Alberta Seniors website at www.seniors.gov.ab.ca.

For more information, please contact:
Ed Conway, Public Affairs Officer
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(780) 415-9952

City of Edmonton

The City of Edmonton is a founding member of the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund, appoints one of the seven trustees, and provides approximately \$1.2 million in funding to the trust annually.

For information on Edmonton's housing and homelessness initiatives, visit:

www.gov.edmonton.ab.ca

For more information please contact:

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City of Edmonton Community Services

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