



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yellowknife Community Plan approved—homeless and those at risk to benefit

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories—Approval for the Yellowknife Community Plan on homelessness was announced today by the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Secretary of State for Children and Youth, on behalf of the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness. Funding in the amount of \$1,543,030 will be provided to help Yellowknife's homeless through the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative. As part of this funding, Secretary of State Blondin-Andrew also announced \$129,440 in funding to SideDoor Ministries to help with the renovation and expansion of their youth facility.

“Yellowknife, N'dilo and Dettah have come together to find solutions to the problem of homelessness in our communities,” said Secretary of State Blondin-Andrew. “Who is better positioned than our own community members to develop effective strategies to help prevent and alleviate homelessness here? The Government of Canada is committed to supporting such local efforts. We believe that in working with our partners we will find innovative and successful ways of combating homelessness right across Canada.”

The Community Plan was developed by the Homelessness Coalition of Yellowknife who undertook research and public consultation to find effective ways to reduce the risks associated with homelessness in Yellowknife and the two adjoining communities of Dettah and N'dilo. The community assets available to six different groups—youth, seniors, families, abused women, singles and persons with disabilities—were analyzed, and gaps in the community service continuum identified. The resulting plan consists of three primary focus areas: Community Planning, Capacity Building and Research, Programs and Services for the Homeless, and Housing Capital Projects.

“The City of Yellowknife appreciates the opportunity to participate with all those who are devoting their time and talent to this project. We anticipate positive long-term benefits to our community,” said Yellowknife Mayor Gordon Van Tighem.

The Community Plan is the community’s vision of how best to help the homeless. The plan is a product of a consultative process involving all stakeholders interested in addressing homelessness in a particular community. The Community Plan provides a foundation for community action that can build on the community’s assets and begin to address some of the identified gaps.

The bulk of the funding announced today will come from the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI). The SCPI enables communities to bring together various partners to develop local solutions to their particular homelessness needs and issues. The Government of Canada’s National Homelessness Initiative 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. The National Homelessness Initiative is making a difference in addressing this issue by using a community-based approach to help develop solutions that work.

For more information on the Government of Canada’s National Homelessness Initiative, visit our Web site at www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/nsh.snsa

PROJECT SUMMARIES

Yellowknife Community Plan to Address Homelessness

Government of Canada Contribution

| | |
|---|------------|
| Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative | \$ 718,030 |
| Youth homelessness | \$ 225,000 |
| Aboriginal homelessness | \$ 600,000 |

- **Total project cost:** **\$1,543,030**

SideDoor Youth Ministries

Government of Canada contribution: **\$ 129,440**

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