
news release

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For release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local groups will receive funding to help Halifax's homeless

Halifax, Nova Scotia — Two local organizations, Tawaak Housing Association and a local newspaper, *Street Feat*, will soon be able to enhance their services for Halifax's homeless. The Honourable Robert Thibault, Minister of State for Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, on behalf of the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Coordinator on Homelessness, today announced funding of \$202,313 to help these groups address homelessness in the Halifax area.

"I am very pleased that the Government of Canada is a partner in these innovative projects," said Minister Thibault. "Groups like the Tawaak Housing Association and *Street Feat* are helping to make a difference by addressing the needs of those at risk of becoming homeless, as well as raising awareness of the issue in our community."

The Government of Canada, through the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), is contributing \$148,280 toward Tawaak Housing and \$54,033 toward *Street Feat*. The Housing Services Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Community Service will continue to provide an annual grant to Tawaak Housing.

The Tawaak Housing Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing suitable and affordable rental housing to Aboriginal people with low to moderate incomes. Established in 1981, the Tawaak Housing Association administers socially assisted housing programs to Aboriginal peoples in six urban communities across Nova Scotia.

Funding will enable the Tawaak Housing Association to develop five furnished one- and two-bedroom supportive housing units intended for homeless Aboriginal people in need. The Tawaak Housing Association will subsidize the rent for the apartment units for a maximum of three months, giving residents an opportunity to stabilize their lives and secure an income.

Street Feat is the only newspaper in Atlantic Canada dedicated solely to poverty and homelessness issues. Founded in 1997, *Street Feat's* main objectives are to provide a voice for those in need, educate and raise awareness of the local homelessness situation, develop a community-based solution to poverty, and help generate income for those in need. Funding announced today will enable *Street Feat* to cover capital expenditures, conduct day-to-day operations, and hire an individual on a part-time basis to promote their newspaper.

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

The SCPI brings together various partners to develop local solutions to the homelessness challenges faced by communities across Canada. These local solutions assist in developing a more seamless web of supports for homeless individuals and families. The \$305 million SCPI is a key component of the Government of Canada's \$753 million National Homelessness Initiative.

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

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BACKGROUND

Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative

Canada is known for its very high standard of living, yet homelessness is an urgent problem in far too many of our communities. In a commitment to improve the quality of life for all Canadians, the Government of Canada is investing \$305 million in the new **Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI)** for communities across the country with the most significant homelessness problems.

Eighty per cent of this funding is going to communities with the most acute signs of homelessness: Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City and Halifax. The remaining 20 per cent is being directed to other communities across Canada that have demonstrated a significant homelessness problem.

The goal of the SCPI is to provide flexible funding for communities to plan and implement comprehensive local strategies to help reduce the number of homeless people and to improve conditions to prevent others from becoming homeless.

The SCPI encourages the local collaboration and partnership needed to successfully address homelessness. Participating communities receive funding to support their efforts to involve public, private and voluntary sector partners in the fight against homelessness.

This initiative provides communities with the resources needed to identify service gaps, as well as plan for and implement supports that will enable homeless people to move from the streets and emergency shelters to more secure lives.

Through the SCPI, the Government of Canada funds up to 50 per cent of the cost of implementing community plans. Contributions from other partners, such as provincial and municipal governments and the private and voluntary sectors, will make up the other 50 per cent, through either direct resources or in-kind contributions.