



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dufferin community plan approved—homeless and those at risk to benefit

ORANGEVILLE, ONTARIO—Final approval for the Dufferin community plan on homelessness was announced today by Member of Parliament Murray Calder, on behalf of the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness. Funding in the amount of \$247,284 will be provided to help Dufferin's homeless through the Government of Canada's Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), under the National Homelessness Initiative.

“This plan to address homelessness in Dufferin has been developed by the community for the community,” said Calder. “The Government of Canada firmly believes that communities are uniquely positioned to develop effective, efficient strategies to help prevent and alleviate homelessness locally. We are committed to working together with our partners to find effective ways to help the homeless and those at-risk.”

Developed by a local steering committee comprised of government and community representatives, the Community Action Plan identifies existing conditions, gaps in service for those in need, and priority areas and recommendations to address homelessness.

Although not as prevalent as in larger urban communities, homelessness is a hidden and growing problem in rural communities such as Dufferin County. This initiative will go a long way in addressing the needs of the community. “Today, thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Community Advisory Board, the community plan will be put into action. This federal funding will enable the community to provide much-needed support in preventing homelessness in Dufferin County. This initiative is an excellent example of federal and municipal partnerships,” said Warden John Creelman.

Priority areas in the Dufferin plan include developing supportive transitional housing for families and individuals, supporting and strengthening the existing Dufferin Youth Shelter to move youth from emergency to permanent housing, and co-ordinating the continuum of supports that will help individuals with employment training, permanent housing and personal growth.

A community plan is the community's vision of how best to help the homeless. A plan is the product of co-operation between all stakeholders interested in addressing homelessness in a particular community. The community identifies assets, gaps, and priorities that meet local requirements to both prevent and reduce homelessness. 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 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 expanding 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

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