

## Media Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 22, 2001**

### **Local groups receive \$4 million for homelessness programs in Hamilton**

**HAMILTON, ONTARIO**—Local organizations will receive \$4 million in funding from the Government of Canada for projects to prevent and alleviate homelessness in the city. The announcement was made today at a news conference held by local Members of Parliament Stan Keyes and Beth Phinney, along with Mayor Robert Wade and Dr. Lindsey George, Chair of the Hamilton Community Advisory Board on Homelessness.

"I am so pleased to be working with the City of Hamilton to direct resources to local agencies that have the capacity to provide much-needed supports that will help address the issue of homelessness," said Mr. Keyes. "No one government has all the answers, but we can, and must, act together to combat homelessness."

Funding for these projects comes from the Government of Canada's Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), of the National Homelessness Initiative. Today's announcement builds on \$4.9 million in funding announced in July to increase services for the homeless in Hamilton.

"The initiatives announced today are supported by the community and will go a long way to address the needs of homeless people in the Hamilton area," said Ms. Phinney. "This clearly demonstrates the value of the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative as it helps local communities in their work to help the people most in need."

"I'm encouraged to see that the federal government has recognized homelessness as a challenge for this community," said Mayor Wade. "Clearly, action and attention are needed. I am also pleased that Ottawa has chosen to partner with the City to administer the funds."

All of the funded projects were recommended in the Community Action Plan on Homelessness, which guides the administration of the SCPI funds. Funding announced today will be directed to projects that provide services to support people who are at risk of becoming homeless. These include emergency intervention programs, repairs to an existing homeless facility at the Salvation Army Booth Centre and partnering in a Community Health Bus that will target children, youth and their families.

"We are pleased to support prevention initiatives and emergency shelter services," stated Dr. Lindsey George, Chair of the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness. "In the long run, the community will be better off if we can effectively help people avoid becoming homeless."

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The SCPI brings together various partners to develop local solutions to homelessness challenges faced by communities across Canada. These local solutions help develop 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, a program that is making a difference by using a community-based approach to help develop solutions that work for communities. Through the SCPI, Hamilton will receive \$12.9 million to prevent and alleviate homelessness.

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

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## BACKGROUNDER

### Local groups receive \$4 million for homelessness programs in Hamilton

Federal Riding	Project Type Agency, Project Title, Description	Amount
Hamilton West	<p><b><u>Innovation</u></b></p> <p><b>Housing Help Centre</b> Production of a 50-minute documentary video “Room at the Inn.” The video will explore the social geography and history of several local rooming houses and hotel - taverns.</p>	\$18,650
Hamilton West	<p><b><u>Prevention</u></b></p> <p><b>Settlement Integration Services Organization (SISO), Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre, and St. Matthew’s House.</b> Development of coordinated, integrated strategy for service delivery and support services to homeless immigrants, refugees, visible minorities and low-income families including transitional or temporary accommodations, as needed, for up to 125 families.</p>	\$248,800
Hamilton West	<p><b>Hamilton Housing Corporation</b> ROOFS -R(eal) O(ptions) OF S(upport), supported housing at 95 Hess/181 Jackson St. to improve quality of life for tenants, create stability in housing at the buildings and reduce tenant turnover.</p>	\$340,020
Hamilton Mountain and Hamilton East	<p><b>VHA Health and Home Support Services and St. Matthew’s House</b> Identification of elderly people who are at risk of homelessness and support services, including on site crisis intervention</p>	\$434,040
Hamilton West	<p><b>Salvation Army Booth Centre, Wesley Urban Ministries and Housing Help Centre</b> Integrated case management to connect clients who are homeless or under housed to a case worker in an effort to increase each agency’s effectiveness in providing opportunities for individuals to move towards independent living.</p>	\$209,104
Hamilton East	<p><b>SHAC, Dundurn Community Legal Services, Hamilton Mountain Legal Community Services, McMaster University Off Campus Housing Office, SISO, SPRC and Second Level Lodging Home Tenants Committee</b> Tenant education and research through written materials, public speaking, media work and street outreach.</p>	\$116,186

Federal Riding	Project Type Agency, Project Title, Description	Amount
Hamilton West	<p><b>Good Shepherd Centres</b> Enhance current case management services at the Men's Shelter and Mary's Place to strengthen the capacity to identify and address the issues contributing to repetitive shelter use.</p>	\$112,476
Hamilton East	<p><b>Native Women's Centre</b> Emergency intervention program to speed native womens move from shelter to permanent housing and to assist those at risk of homelessness maintain current permanent housing.</p>	\$118,238
Hamilton West	<p><b>McMaster University School of Nursing</b> Comprehensive health needs assessment to gauge prevalence and priority of health problems in order to develop a community action plan for health care for the homeless.</p>	\$125,789
Hamilton East	<p><b>Food Share</b> Food bank client survey to improve understanding of who uses food banks and why.</p>	\$44,340
Hamilton West	<p><b>City of Hamilton</b> A multipartner community collaboration to develop and implement a pilot project to retrofit a city transit bus for use as a mobile primary care unit. The Community Health Bus (CHB) will target children, youth and their families in a geographic area that faces known risk factors to becoming homeless.</p>	\$163,908
Hamilton West	<p><b>Wesley Urban Ministries</b> Funding for continued operation for 2002-2003 of the 24-hour, 7-days-a-week drop-in services at Wesley Centre to individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.</p>	\$109,400
Hamilton West	<p><b>Children's Aid Society</b> Pilot project to ensure retention of the family unit by use of temporary hotel/motel accommodations and or cleaning services in emergency situations that could result in children being separated from their families.</p>	\$67,533
Hamilton East	<p><b>Phoenix Place</b> Additional staff to increase the number of second stage units in Hamilton and to reduce the length of stay at hostels through case management and follow-up support</p>	\$146,182
Hamilton West	<p><b>Second Stage Services</b> Additional staff to increase the number of second stage units in Hamilton and to reduce the length of stay at hostels through case management and follow-up support.</p>	\$140,186

Federal Riding	Project Type Agency, Project Title, Description	Amount
Hamilton West	<b>City of Hamilton</b> Additional staff, clerical, a hostel worker and a nurse, to improve services at hostels and to provide more effective monitoring of residential care facilities.	\$210,729
Hamilton West	<b>McMaster School of Nursing in partnership with Wesley Urban Ministries</b> A pilot project to provide future direction and goal setting to motivated street youth in a setting to leave the street culture in a setting removed from the downtown core.	\$383,698
Hamilton West	<u><b>Capital</b></u>  <b>Salvation Army Booth Centre</b> Partial funding for essential repairs to the existing facility at 94 York Boulevard.	\$814,300
Hamilton West	<u><b>Youth</b></u>  <b>Living Rock</b> The proposed activities include renovating space in the basement to create a nursing station, improve the area where the Food Bank is located and enhance purchases donated to meet the needs of this youth population. This money will also enable the hiring of part-time janitorial staff and of a Food Bank Coordinator.	\$159,787