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# news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Durham Region Community Plan approved—homeless and those at risk to benefit**

**WHITBY, ONTARIO**—Approval for Durham Region’s Community Plan on homelessness was announced today by Judi Longfield, Member of Parliament for Whitby-Ajax and the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness. Funding in the amount of \$1.3 million will be provided to Durham Region to help address homelessness through the Government of Canada’s Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), under the National Homelessness Initiative.

“This Community Plan was developed by and for the people of Durham, to find solutions to homelessness in our area,” said Ms. Longfield. “This innovative approach is based on the premise that it is communities themselves that are best positioned to develop effective, efficient and local strategies to help alleviate homelessness.”

Developed by a local 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.

“The Region of Durham has been very committed to seeking solutions to homelessness,” said Roger Anderson, Durham Regional Chairman. “We are very gratified by this Federal initiative that will provide us some of the funds to assist people in our Region.”

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 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.

“Thanks to the work of our dedicated local steering committee over many years, we were able to quickly develop our Community Action Plan,” said Larry O’Connor, Steering Committee Chair and Regional Councillor. “ Now we can work even more effectively towards eliminating homelessness and the risk of homelessness in our community.”

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](http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/nsh-snsa)*

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