

Backgrounder

Homelessness Initiative projects for youths and Aboriginal people in Quebec

Since the \$753 million Homelessness Initiative was launched in December 1999, the Government of Canada has invested in 23 projects for youths and Aboriginal people in Quebec. Some offer homeless youths the opportunity to acquire work experience and upgrade their basic skills. Others improve services and supports for homeless Aboriginal people living in an urban environment.

The contributions announced today were made under the Youth and Aboriginal components of the Initiative, each of which has been allocated a budget envelope of \$59 million to help meet the needs of communities dealing with problems of homelessness.

In addition, \$56.7 million will be made available under the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) for projects to assist homeless people in the Montreal and Quebec City census metropolitan areas and the towns of Chicoutimi, Trois-Rivières, Drummondville, Hull and Sherbrooke. The governments of Canada and Quebec signed a co-operation agreement in February 2001. Communities have an active role to play in implementing the SCPI. A management committee is responsible for managing and co-ordinating the Initiative in Quebec, with the support of an advisory committee composed of representatives of the two levels of government and local organizations.

The projects listed below, all located in Quebec, are in progress or soon to be launched. They target homeless people in Drummondville, Granby, Longueuil, Montreal, Quebec City, Rimouski, Sherbrooke, Ste-Anne des Monts, Ste-Justine de Newton, Trois-Rivières and Val d'Or.

YOUTH PROJECTS

Drummondville

Le Refuge La Piaule Centre du Québec – \$49,340

Six homeless people participate in a community development project in the arts and entertainment industry.

Ensoleilvent – \$103,400

Young people aged under 30 build a sugar shack together, using traditional methods.

Subtotal: \$152,740

Granby

Auberge sous mon toit – \$109,352

Homeless youths work on a vegetable farming project. The produce will be used to feed homeless people (10 participants).

Subtotal: \$109,352

Longueuil

S.O.S. Predelt - \$69,100

Six young people participate in creating an interactive, educational game which will be presented to local schools. The game will deal with issues of concern to young people, such as taxing, violence, family problems, shoplifting, racism, drugs, etc.

Association Centre Pierre Charbonneau – Eco Quartier – \$115,035

Eight street kids and youths staying at shelters develop awareness-raising tools on drug abuse, family violence and homelessness. They are given the opportunity to express themselves at conferences and workshops.

Carrefour jeunesse Longueuil Rive-Sud – \$109,482

Ten young people work on setting up a coffee house/resource centre which will serve nutritional meals at modest prices, distribute food provisions, operate a meals-on-wheels service, and organize various sporting and cultural activities for the underprivileged, including homeless people.

L'Antre-temps – \$129,229

Ten homeless youths organize and participate in a volunteer brigade.

Subtotal: \$422,846

Montreal

Club Optimiste Montréal Colombo – \$122,215

Ten young people help expand awareness-raising and education efforts directed at residents in order to improve the quality of the environment and promote public responsibility for environmentally sound practices.

.../3

Les jeunes et le studio Hip Hop – \$115,485

Eight marginalized youths produce and participate in artistic events.

Les jeunes marginalisés 2 – \$115,485

Eight marginalized youths are given the opportunity to express themselves. The premises are shared with the community. The project aims at awareness-raising and cultural/social revitalization.

Subtotal: \$353,185

Quebec City

Moisson Québec Inc. – \$114,735

Twelve young people apply their knowledge and realize their potential through the practical activity of creating a community garden.

Les Oeuvres de la Maison Dauphine – \$112,708

Ten street kids design and produce an indoor/outdoor mural in order to create opportunities for future contracts.

Subtotal: \$227,443

Rimouski

Action Travail Rimouski-Neigette Inc. – \$170,800

Young people aged 18 to 30 who are homeless or experiencing difficulty entering the labour market work on a community garden. In addition to acquiring a sense of initiative, emerging from their isolation and learning new skills, participants have the opportunity to help poor and homeless families by supplying them with fresh organic vegetables.

Action Travail – \$146,885

Ten participants create a community garden. The produce will go to centres that provide services to the homeless.

Subtotal: \$317,685

Sherbrooke

Maison Jeune-Est – \$112,950

Homeless people are offered shelter and organized activities through the youth centre. A workshop/store is created for the same clients (10 at-risk youths).

Coalition sherbrookoise pour le travail de rue – \$125,298

Homeless youths work on frescos and murals on downtown buildings (10 participants).

Subtotal: \$238,248

Ste-Anne des Monts

Fondation régionale d’investissement collectif – \$128,274

A theatre/forum to prevent homelessness among rural youths is created (12 participants).

Subtotal: \$128,274

Ste-Justine de Newton

Péveril – Ressource d’insertion sociale et d’hébergement pour jeunes – \$108,287

Ten homeless youths participate in a project that helps them discover their own potential and enter the labour market. The project supports learning based on participants’ individual needs. Participants work in a group tending a 7-acre garden. The produce will be distributed by Moisson Sud-Ouest, the Suroît-region food bank.

Subtotal: \$108,287

Trois-Rivières

Centre Le Havre de Trois-Rivières Inc. – \$120,000

Socially estranged youths (drifters, kids with drug problems or mental health problems) set up a street newspaper and Internet café.

Subtotal: \$120,000

Total - Youth: \$2,178,060

ABORIGINAL PROJECTS

Montreal

Native Women's Shelter of Montreal – \$17,992

A worker is hired to provide women referred by local social services centres with ongoing support. A parenting and basic skills program is also offered through weekly discussion groups co-ordinated by a facilitator, with the help of wise women who are respected in the local Aboriginal communities.

Waseskun Inc. – \$88,014

A healing program for Montreal-area Aboriginal men at risk of homelessness. A holistic therapeutic method based on Aboriginal cultural and spiritual values.

Subtotal: \$106,006

Quebec City

Centre d'amitié autochtone de Québec – CAAQ – \$122,565

A homelessness prevention program is set up for urban Aboriginal people in Quebec City and area. The project provides participants with the tools to overcome emotional, psychological and other obstacles that can be major barriers to entering the labour market.

Subtotal: \$122,565

Val d'Or

Centre d'amitié autochtone de Val d'Or – \$18,753

A study is conducted of homelessness among Aboriginal people.

Subtotal: \$18,753

Total - Aboriginal: \$247,324

Grand total: \$2,425,384