

The Regional Municipality of Halton

For Immediate Release
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Halton Region to Receive Funding for Homelessness Initiatives

OAKVILLE, ONTARIO — The Halton region is pleased to announce that their Community Action Plan to address homelessness has received approval by the Government of Canada. Funding in the amount of \$1,000,835 will be provided to the region through the Government of Canada's Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), under the National Homelessness Initiative, to help support the objectives of the plan.

Joyce Savoline, Halton Regional Chair, made the announcement today, along with federal Members of Parliament for the area: Bonnie Brown; John Bryden; Julian Reed; and Paddy Torsney, on behalf of the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness.

"This plan was developed by and for local people to find solutions to homelessness in the Halton region. This is an example of the Government of Canada's commitment to working with communities to find innovative and successful ways of combating homelessness in Canada. The SCPI approach is based on the premise that communities are best positioned to develop effective and efficient strategies to tackle homelessness," declared the Members of Parliament in a joint statement.

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"Homelessness is a hidden problem in this region," said Joyce Savoline. " And there is a critical link between a lack of affordable housing and homelessness. Now, thanks to this funding, we can raise awareness of the problem and work more effectively as a community to ensure the development of effective housing alternatives."

The funding was awarded following the approval of Halton's Community Action Plan on homelessness issues in Halton which was developed by a local steering committee comprised of government and community representatives and chaired by Esther Clark of the Burlington Salvation Army. The plan identifies existing conditions, gaps in service for those in need and priority areas and recommendations to address homelessness.

Priority areas in the Halton plan include the need for emergency housing beds and transition housing, increased client support and advocacy resources in the housing and emergency housing systems, expansion of community awareness of homelessness, the need for affordable housing and support for strategies to address these issues.

"Our Community Action Plan puts in place a framework that will help Halton work together to tackle homelessness," said Esther Clark, Chair of the SCPI Community Advisory Committee of Halton. "We look forward to working with partners to provide essential services for people in need."

The Regional Municipality of Halton, as the SCPI Community Entity, is now accepting proposals for funding. Interested parties wishing more information about this initiative should contact Tanja Schlabit, Special Projects Manager, Social & Community Services at (905) 825-6000, ext. 7085 or schlabit@region.halton.on.ca.

The Government of Canada's \$305-million SCPI sponsors broad partnerships to support actions identified by communities to alleviate and prevent homelessness. The 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. Through SCPI, communities in Ontario will receive \$99 million over three years.

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For more information on the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative, visit our web site at www.hrdc.gc.ca/homelessness

Further Information:

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