

---

# news release

---

September 10, 2001  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

---

**Sault Ste. Marie receives funding to alleviate and prevent homelessness**

---

**SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO** — The Government of Canada is providing \$45,052 for the development of a comprehensive community plan to fight homelessness in Sault Ste. Marie. Carmen Provenzano, Member of Parliament for Sault Ste. Marie, announced the funding today on behalf of Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness, to support the community in developing its own solutions to prevent homelessness.

“The community plan is being developed through the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), as part of the Government of Canada’s National Homelessness Initiative, to help Sault Ste-Marie access SCPI funding,” said Mr. Provenzano. “The Government of Canada believes that communities can best identify local solutions to homelessness and best meet the needs of people who are homeless or living in substandard conditions by developing local strategies and making more efficient use of resources.”

The community planning process is expected to be completed in late December, and will begin with the consultation of a wide range of local stakeholders, including the homeless population, to find solutions that will work best for the area. The initial consultations will be summarized in a needs assessment report that will be presented at a community forum on homelessness planned for early November.

“I’m very proud to see such an important community issue being brought forward out of Building an Extraordinary Community,” said Mayor John Rowswell. “While our homeless community may not be as visible as those in the major cities, there is no doubt that a growing number of our residents are struggling with housing issues. It is empowering to witness the community coming together to take control of its needs and plans, and the Homelessness Committee is to be commended for their efforts.”

The community plan is being developed by a local steering committee comprised of government and community representatives. The Homelessness Committee is an extension of the Social Services Solution Council resulting from the City's Building an Extraordinary Community strategic planning process.

"The project has been a long time coming. Hopefully, this indicates we are now going to get serious about an issue that has grown dramatically in the last few years. Homelessness is paralyzing and dealing with it effectively will require a full effort from all of us," said Sault MPP Tony Martin.

"We hope that through the stakeholder consultations and the community forum, everyone with an interest in local homelessness and housing issues will have the opportunity to participate in the planning process," said Dree Pauze, Homelessness Committee Chairperson.

The project consultants, Norm and Pam Jaehrling of the Possibilities Group, will be directly contacting stakeholders identified by the Homelessness Steering Committee. Community organizations and interested residents who wish to contribute to the plan should contact the Possibilities Group at (705) 785-9949 or by e-mail at [possibilities@sympatico.ca](mailto:possibilities@sympatico.ca)

The community plan will recommend projects and activities under the SCPI, which enables communities to bring together various partners to develop local solutions to their particular homelessness needs. The \$305-million SCPI is the cornerstone of the Government of Canada's \$753-million National Homelessness Initiative. Through the SCPI, communities in Ontario will receive more than \$99 million over three years. 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.gc.ca/homelessness](http://www.hrdc.gc.ca/homelessness)*

**For more information:**

Carmen Provenzano  
MP, Sault Ste. Marie  
(705) 941-2900

Norman or Pam Jaehrling  
Possibilities Group  
(705) 785-9949

Dree Pauze  
Chair, Homeless Committee  
(705) 759-5457

David Klug  
Minister Bradshaw's Office  
(819) 953-5646