
news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thunder Bay Community Plan approved – Homeless and those at risk to benefit

THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO — Final approval for the Thunder Bay community plan on homelessness was announced today by Joe Comuzzi, MP for Thunder Bay—Superior North and Stan Drominsky, MP for Thunder Bay—Atikokan, on behalf of the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness. Funding in the amount of \$423,186 will be provided to Thunder Bay through the Government of Canada’s Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), under the National Homelessness Initiative, to help our city’s homeless.

“Homeless is a challenge that no single government or organization can solve on their own,” said Comuzzi. “This announcement today is an example of the Government of Canada’s commitment to working with our partners to find innovative and successful ways of combating homelessness in Canada.”

“The community plan has been developed by and for local people to find solutions to homelessness in Thunder Bay,” said Dromisky. “We know that communities themselves are best positioned to develop effective, efficient strategies that will help prevent and alleviate homelessness.”

Developed by a local steering 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. Priority areas in the Thunder Bay plan include providing outreach support to assist people who are at risk, an education and service plan for those in transition, securing funding for shelters and facilitating the availability of appropriate housing

“Thanks to the work of our dedicated local steering committee, we are ready with our Community Action Plan,” said Brenda Reimer, spokesperson for the Thunder Bay Community Planning Group for Homelessness, on behalf of Maurice Fortin, Chairperson. “Now we can work even more effectively towards eliminating homelessness and the risk of homelessness in our community.”

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.

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.gc.ca/homelessness

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