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NEWS RELEASE

LOCAL GROUPS TO RECEIVE \$2.25 MILLION TO COMBAT HOMELESSNESS

Capital Projects – September 25, 2001

OTTAWA, ONTARIO—Seven local organizations will receive \$2.25 million in funding from the Government of Canada for projects to prevent and alleviate homelessness in the city. This announcement was made today at a news conference held by the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Federal Co-ordinator on Homelessness, and Ottawa Mayor Bob Chiarelli.

“I am so pleased to be working with the City of Ottawa to direct resources to local agencies that have the capacity to provide much-needed supports that will help address the issue of homelessness,” said Minister Bradshaw. “No one government has all the answers, but we can, and must, act together to combat homelessness.”

Funding announced today will be directed to supportive and transitional housing initiatives that help clients move from shelters to more independent living arrangements.

The \$2.25 million, administered by the municipal government, is the second installment of the \$17.3 million in federal funding allocated to combat homelessness in Ottawa under the Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative (SCPI), of the National Homelessness Initiative, announced in December 1999. The City of Ottawa’s Housing Branch allocates the funds through a selection committee that evaluates proposals submitted by community agencies.

“With more than 1,100 people in local shelters each night, including as many as 160 families, homelessness in Ottawa is a growing concern and we are committed to finding solutions. I am confident that carefully directed resources from the federal government, the City, and other sources will allow us to reverse the present trend,” said Ottawa Mayor, Bob Chiarelli. “The City will continue to identify priorities and implement both short- and long-term strategies aimed at ending homelessness.”

This round of requests for proposals for SCPI funding was announced in June 2001 and was limited to organizations that had the capacity to use funds to create supportive or transitional housing in Ottawa by March 31, 2003. Supportive and transitional housing refers to housing that includes a support component or that facilitates transition to a more independent lifestyle.

The selection committee is made up of informed and involved individuals including municipal and federal politicians and staff, representatives from the private sector and various local housing agencies and organizations. Eleven proposals were evaluated and seven agencies were allocated funds. In some cases funding was made contingent on specific conditions set by the Committee that must be met by the agencies by mid-October.

Today's announcement builds on the \$8 million in funding announced for homelessness initiatives in Ottawa in February 2001. The third round of requests for project proposals is due at the end of September 2001.

The SCPI brings together various partners to develop local solutions to homelessness challenges faced by communities across Canada. These local solutions help develop a more seamless web of supports for homeless individuals and families. The \$305-million SCPI is a key component of the Government of Canada's \$753-million National Homelessness Initiative, a program that is making a difference by using a community-based approach to help develop solutions that work for communities. Through the SCPI, communities in Ontario will receive over \$99 million to prevent and alleviate homelessness.

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BACKGROUND

INITIATIVES TO END HOMELESSNESS – FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

Capital Projects – September 25, 2001

Projects to alleviate homelessness in Ottawa receive \$2.25 million in funding

To help address and alleviate homelessness in Ottawa, \$2.25 million was announced today for more than seven projects. Funding partners include the Government of Canada and the City of Ottawa.

Federal funding for these projects is being allocated through the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI). Ottawa will receive \$17.3 million over three years under the SCPI for service programs and capital projects. Projects selected for funding are consistent with the Community Plan for Homelessness developed by the City of Ottawa through the Government of Canada's SCPI.

Catholic Immigration Centre

- To create transitional housing space for up to 50 new Canadians to prepare them for independent living in the community.
 - **Total funding:** \$472,000

City of Ottawa Non-Profit Housing Corporation

- To create three transitional housing units, with support to be provided by the Canadian Mental Health Association. New construction. A total of 50 units would be built, of these, 25 will be rent-geared-to-income and three transitional units for individuals with mental health issues.
 - **Total funding:** \$188,000

Elizabeth Fry Society

- Conversion of leased premises at the Bronson Centre to house six women and two families in the Elizabeth Fry program.
 - **Total funding:** \$59,600



John Howard Society of Ottawa Kirkpatrick House

- Renovation of a vacant rooming house into 13 bachelor units for male ex-offenders. Support would be provided by John Howard Society.
- **Total funding:** \$420,000

The Union Mission

- Renovation that results in providing 12 supportive residential spaces (plus 15 day participants) in a drug treatment/rehabilitation program for addicted homeless men. (The existing program requires larger space.)
- **Total funding:** \$225,500

Pinganodin Lodge

- Partnering with Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation, to develop a transitional housing facility for 24 Aboriginal men.
- **Total funding:** \$777,000

Ottawa Mennonite Church

- To purchase one, two or three townhouse condominiums to use as transitional housing for newcomer families, particularly women fleeing from abuse. Support would be provided by the Ottawa Mennonite Church.
- **Total funding:** for 3 units, \$101,325