



PRESS RELEASE



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In Search of Creative Affordable Housing Proposals

REGINA, Saskatchewan, December 12, 2002 — The first call for proposals under the intergovernmental Centenary Affordable Housing Program has been issued to more than 200 community-based organizations, private-sector construction companies and other potential project sponsors and interested parties across Saskatchewan.

Successful proposals will offer affordable housing to neighbourhoods and communities with a demonstrated need, such as inner-city areas. Priority will be given to proposals offering affordable housing for modest income families, seniors and people with disabilities, as well as proposals that offer a higher number of units relative to the amount of government grants provided.

"This proposal call is a tangible step toward implementing the partnership between the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan in providing up to 1,500 more units of affordable housing", said the Honourable David Collette, Minister of Transport and Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. "This builds on existing federal initiatives to support affordable housing in Saskatchewan."

"Provision of affordable housing is an important part of the provincial government's strategy to promote independence and self-sufficiency among modest-income Saskatchewan people", Saskatchewan Social Services Minister Glenn Hagel said. "We welcome creative affordable housing proposals from community groups and the private sector across the province. All proposals will be assessed based on community need for affordable housing and with a view to maximizing the number of units delivered."

Established in June 2002, the Centenary Affordable Housing Program will receive \$45.86 million under the Canada-Saskatchewan Affordable Housing Program Agreement over the next five years from federal, provincial and municipal levels of government and other sources to increase the supply of affordable housing in Saskatchewan.

The federal contribution amounts to \$22.93 million, to be fully matched by \$22.93 million from the province, municipalities and other sources. The provincial government funding for the Centenary Affordable Housing Program is from the Saskatchewan Centenary Fund. The fund was established to help accelerate social housing and a variety of other important capital projects leading up to the province's Centenary in 2005.

The amount of government funding provided to each successful proposal will vary. Parties who are interested in submitting a proposal under the Centenary Affordable Housing Program may obtain applications and submission information by calling Saskatchewan Housing Corporation's toll-free number, 1-800-667-7567.

For more information, contact:

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Brian Miller
Saskatchewan Social Services
Regina
Phone: (306) 787-0531

Mary Ann Kenney
CMHC
Calgary
Phone: (403) 515-2903