



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **Apartment Units Being Built Under Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative will Benefit Brandon**

**BRANDON, Manitoba, October 17, 2003** - Brandon area residents will soon have access to more safe and affordable housing when 36 units of housing are completed. The projects are made possible with more than \$533,000 in funding from the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative.

The Honourable Steven Mahoney, Secretary of State responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and Drew Caldwell, Minister of Manitoba Family Services and Housing today announced total costs, when combined with contributions from the project owners, of \$2.36 million.

"This partnership between federal and provincial governments and the private sector demonstrates how we can work together to address the housing needs of Brandon's residents," said Secretary of State Mahoney. "Successes like this are key to developing strong communities, not just here in Manitoba, but across Canada."

"This support is a great first step for Brandon, through the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative, that further boosts the revitalization of Brandon's downtown," said Minister Caldwell. "Thanks to additional contributions from project owners, low- and moderate-income families will soon be able to move into this new units of housing that will provide much-needed, reasonably-priced housing."

Through the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative, three projects are being supported:

- 1550 Pacific Avenue - \$473,230 for construction of a 30 unit apartment building that includes 28, two-bedroom suites and two, one-bedroom units;
- 1039 Assiniboine Avenue - \$40,000 for construction of a new, two-storey, four-plex that includes four, two-bedroom units; and
- 541 Louise Street - \$20,000 for construction of a two unit addition to an existing two unit building that will create two, two-bedroom suites.

The project owners will provide the funding for the balance of the costs.

The new apartment building features a unique, modular construction technique, with local contractors assembling the modular units on-site. The project is being supported through the AHI's New Rental Supply program and 26 of the units will be available for rent by low- and moderate-income families.

"We are proud to assist members of our community on this project which will provide residents with more affordable, quality housing options," said Mike Abbey, Chair of the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (BNRC). "Local developers, along with the BNRC, in partnership with the governments of Canada and Manitoba, have been able to develop innovative housing models that address the needs of the entire community."

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The governments of Canada and Manitoba will each contribute \$25.39 million to the Affordable Housing Initiative, demonstrating their commitment to increasing the supply of affordable housing in Manitoba. It is anticipated that contributions from municipalities, the private and voluntary sectors, co-operatives and charities will significantly increase the size of this initiative in Manitoba.

Funding under the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative flows through provincially designed programs that support new rental housing and homeownership opportunities and the rehabilitation or conversion of existing housing. As well, \$6 million will be dedicated to housing in remote areas.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Manitoba Family Services and Housing are working co-operatively with the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation to revitalize housing in the Brandon core area.

The revitalization of housing in Brandon's downtown, since April 2000, has been supported by the governments of Canada and Manitoba, with the construction or renovation of 400 rental and homeowner housing units. Projects totalling \$4.8 million have been cost-shared by the Canada and Manitoba. This support has helped ensure safe, improved and affordable rental housing options for low- and moderate-income families.

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### **Housing Support Details:**

#### **Government of Canada**

The Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI) was signed in September 2002 and provides \$50.8 million, over five years, to help increase the supply of affordable rental units and new housing available in the province. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), on behalf of the Government of Canada, has contributed \$25.39 million, which is matched by the Province of Manitoba. It is anticipated the AHI will create 2,500 units over five years.

Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP), to help low-income households and landlords make necessary repairs to bring their properties up to acceptable health and safety standards. RRAP is cost-shared 75/25 per cent respectively by the federal government, through CMHC, and by the provincial government through Manitoba Family Services and Housing. Manitoba administers the program.

## **Government of Manitoba**

Through the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative, Manitoba has committed \$25.39 million to further increase support for the development of safe and affordable housing. Funding support under the New Rental Supply, New Homeownership Supply, Repair/Conversion and Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance Programs is available to support housing proposals.

The Manitoba government has also committed close to \$2 million annually to its share of federal renovation programs, including the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) and the Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP).

Neighbourhoods Alive! is a long-term development strategy that provides community groups in designated areas of Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson with the support they need for programs in the areas of housing and physical improvements, employment and training, education and recreation, and safety and crime prevention. The Manitoba government has committed \$3.7 million to Neighbourhoods Alive! in the 2003 budget to develop local capacity, innovative training and provide a fund through which local neighbourhoods can implement their revitalization plans