



PRESS RELEASE



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Nine Apartment Buildings in St. Boniface Being Renovated with \$850,000 from Affordable Housing Initiative

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, December 5, 2003 — Low- and moderate-income residents living in St. Boniface will have access to safe, quality rental accommodations with the renovation of 100 units of affordable housing. The Place St. Boniface project is being made possible with up to \$850,000 in funding assistance from the governments of Canada and Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI).

The Honourable Christine Melnick, Minister of Manitoba Family Services and Housing; Raymond Simard, Member of Parliament for St. Boniface, on behalf of the Honourable Steven Mahoney, Secretary of State responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC); Daniel Vandal, Deputy Mayor, on behalf of the City of Winnipeg, participated in today's funding announcement.

"As today's announcement shows, we are taking a leading role with the WHHI to revitalize our communities," said Minister Melnick. "This is another step that takes us well on our way to achieving our goal of providing 2,500 affordable homes to low- and moderate-income Manitobans by 2007. Families will be strengthened and the neighbourhood will be improved when these upgraded apartment units are completed."

"This is a very important project for St. Boniface and illustrates how the private and public sectors can develop innovative, affordable housing solutions," said Simard. "Place St. Boniface is yet another excellent example of how federal funds can help our partners to respond to the housing needs of people in our communities."

"This housing project, in the heart of St. Boniface, will be a real boost to the neighbourhood," said Vandal. "It is important for our city to revitalize older neighbourhoods and maintain quality housing options for people in central areas close to the downtown. We are also pleased that these units become affordable housing choices for lower income individuals and families."

When completed, the Place St. Boniface project will create 100 upgraded apartment units, for low- and moderate-income families. In addition, Manitoba Rent Supplement Program assistance will be available for 20 of the units where rents will be based on a family's income. This helps ensure people in need, including Employment and Income Assistance participants, can find adequate and suitable housing.

The project involves the rehabilitation of 59 two-bedroom suites and 41 one-bedroom suites in nine buildings located on Marion Street, Enfield Crescent and Goulet Street. The work includes a range of major renovations including structural and ventilation improvements, plumbing and electrical upgrades, energy efficiency enhancements and increased building security.

Total project costs are estimated at \$2.1 million. The WHHI funding includes \$850,000 provided to the A.S.H. Management Group Inc., through the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative's Repair/Conversion Program, which is cost-shared by the Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba. A.S.H Management Group Inc.,

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which currently administers 1,000 residential suites, will provide additional funding and manage the new project.

"The Place St. Boniface Apartments indeed serves as a fine example of how the private and public sectors are working closely together to provide safe, comfortable, and affordable housing to Manitobans," said Bob Shaer, President of A.S.H. Management Group Inc. "The funding assistance provided by the A.H.I. program has made the redevelopment of Place St. Boniface transform from a dream to reality."

The project is being funded through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative, a partnership established by the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg to address homelessness, declining housing stock and the revitalization of Winnipeg's older neighbourhoods. Located at 361 Hargrave Street, the WHHI is a single-window office to access information on government-funded housing and homelessness programs. Individuals and organizations wanting more information on programs can call the WHHI at (204) 940-3070.

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