



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **Apartment Units Upgraded in Neepawa With Support From Federal and Provincial Governments**

**NEEPAWA, Manitoba, October 15, 2004** — An upgrading project in Neepawa at 440 Mountain View to improve apartment units for low-income households is being supported with funding of over \$77,600 from the Governments of Canada and Manitoba under the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP).

The funding for the project will upgrade six, one-bedroom apartments in a 105 year old building to meet basic health and safety standards at a total cost of \$124,159, which includes the project owner's contribution.

The announcement was made today by the Honourable Reg Alcock, President of the Treasury Board, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing, and the Honourable Christine Melnick, Minister of Manitoba Family Services and Housing.

"RRAP is a key program in the Government of Canada's housing strategy which helps revitalize communities across the country," said Minister Alcock. "Through these partnerships, we can make our communities safe, secure, thus ensuring that the quality of life in Canada is the best it can be, particularly for the residents of Neepawa."

"I am pleased that we can support this needed project which is the result of a locally-planned housing initiative to provide more safe and affordable housing in Neepawa," said Minister Melnick. "These improved apartment units will help contribute to the overall revitalization of Neepawa."

"Neepawa has long recognized the need for affordable housing options," said Terry Volden, on behalf of the Neepawa and Area Development Committee. "We are gratified that the governments of Canada and Manitoba are supporting our plans to develop more affordable housing for our citizens."

In addition to providing funding to the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program, the governments of Canada and Manitoba have each contributed \$25.4 million to the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative to preserve and increase affordable housing in Manitoba. It is anticipated that contributions from municipalities, the private and voluntary sectors, co-operatives and charities will significantly increase the scope of this initiative in Manitoba.

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## **Backgrounder**

### **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, is contributing \$25.4 million, which is matched by the Province of Manitoba. It is anticipated the AHI will create up to 2,500 units over five years.
- The Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) helps 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. For 2004/2005, CMHC allocated funding of \$5.5 million to the province for the suite of renovation initiatives.

#### **Government of Manitoba**

- Through the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative, Manitoba has committed \$25.4 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 and the Shelter Enhancement Program.
- 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 almost \$3.7 million to Neighbourhoods Alive! in the 2004 budget to develop local capacity, innovative training and provide a fund through which local neighbourhoods can implement their revitalization plans.