



PRESS RELEASE



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New Affordable Housing for Single Women in North Point Douglas

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, May 12, 2005 — North End Housing Project (NEHP) will soon begin construction on a new 11-unit apartment to provide more safe, affordable housing for single women and single-parent families living in the North Point Douglas neighbourhood. The project is supported with up to \$550,000 in funding from the Government of Canada, Province of Manitoba, and the City of Winnipeg through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI).

Today's announcement, which also marked the fifth anniversary of the WHHI, was made by the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing and the Honourable Christine Melnick, Manitoba Minister of Family Services and Housing.

"These new 11 units will help address the need for more affordable housing and support services for single women," said Minister Fontana. "This project is just one of the many initiatives facilitated by the Government of Canada through its partnership in the WHHI. For five years now, the WHHI partnership has worked effectively to bring government and the community together to develop local projects to help address housing and homelessness issues in Winnipeg."

"As we celebrate the fifth anniversary of the WHHI, we applaud the efforts of community organizations and our balanced approach of working cooperatively with local groups to create safe housing and furthering the revitalization of the inner-city," said Minister Melnick. "We are pleased to again be working with North End Housing Project on another unique project with special features such as a community kitchen and indoor meeting space which also addresses the need for more affordable housing for single women and single-parent families."

Funding support includes \$550,000 cost-shared by the governments of Canada and Manitoba under the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative's New Rental Supply Program and Neighbourhood Housing Assistance. Total project costs are estimated at \$888,000.

North End Housing Project will construct an 11-unit rental townhouse including three studio units, four one-bedroom units, and four two-bedroom units. All units will face onto a central courtyard and play area. The building will also include a community kitchen and indoor meeting space. The project to be known as the North Point Douglas Gateway Co-Housing Project, is located across from the North Point Douglas Women's Centre.

"This project is the result of the North Point Douglas community's desire to provide stable, secure, and affordable housing for women at risk," said Colleen Simard, President of the North End Housing Project. "We are delighted to receive this assistance from the WHHI that will make this project a reality."

The Governments of Canada and Manitoba signed Phase I of the Affordable Housing Initiative on September 20, 2002. It provides for \$50.78 million in federal funds to renovate or create approximately 2,500 units. Phase II of the AHI was signed on April 25, 2005 and will provide an additional \$23.08 million for affordable housing in the province. To date, construction is complete, underway or committed for over 1,900 units, which accounts for approximately \$37 million of

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program funding.

The funding is coordinated by 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. Since 2000, the WHHI partnership has committed close to \$57 million that has or will contribute to the repair, rehabilitation, or construction of over 2200 units and 137 rooms or beds, as well as assist the homeless or those at risk of being homeless. Located at 361 Hargrave Street, the WHHI serves as a single-window office for community organizations to access information on government funded housing and homelessness programs. For information, community groups can call (204) 940-3070.

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