



PRESS RELEASE



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Affordable Housing Projects Slated for Winnipeg's West End and Centennial Neighbourhoods

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, November 7, 2005 — Low-to moderate-income residents in Winnipeg's Daniel McIntyre, St. Matthews and Centennial neighbourhoods will soon have access to more affordable housing with the major renovation of 14 homes and the construction of one new energy-efficient home, with up to \$572,000 from the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI).

The funding for the Housing Opportunity Partnership (HOP) and North End Housing Project (NEHP), was announced by the Honourable Christine Melnick, Manitoba Minister of Family Services and Housing; Anita Neville, M.P. for Winnipeg South Centre, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing; Housing Deputy Mayor Mike Pagtakhan, on behalf of the City of Winnipeg; and Representatives from the Housing Opportunity Partnership, North End Housing Project, local community and invited guests at 636 Alexander Avenue, the site of one of the homes under renovation.

"Both the Housing Opportunity Partnership and North End Housing Project are a large part of the success story that sums up our efforts through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative to create much-needed, affordable housing and not only to stabilize and revitalize neighbourhoods," said Minister Melnick. "These groups are tackling the monumental challenge of renovating or building quality homes for people with low incomes, in a cost-effective manner."

"The Housing Opportunity Partnership and the North End Housing Project continue to play a key role in providing affordable housing options for Winnipeg residents, first in the west and north ends, and now here in Centennial," said MP Neville. "By expanding into the Centennial neighbourhood, the Government of Canada is strengthening its efforts to help support sustainable inner-city communities."

"It's exciting to see the progress being made in these neighbourhoods and to witness the commitment of both the Housing Opportunity Partnership and the North End Housing Project to inner-city revitalization," said Deputy Mayor Pagtakhan. "I applaud the efforts of the group to provide more safe and affordable housing options, and to promote and strengthen home ownership opportunities."

Total project costs are estimated at \$1.8 million with the groups contributing the balance of the costs. Funding of \$572,000 for the two projects includes \$410,000 cost-shared by the governments of Canada and Manitoba under the Canada – Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative's New Rental Supply Program, \$150,000 from the provincial Neighbourhood Housing Assistance program and \$11,800 for land and demolitions costs, through the City of Winnipeg's Housing Initiative.

HOP will receive \$500,000 to purchase and significantly upgrade 14 homes in the Daniel McIntyre, St. Matthews and Centennial neighbourhoods. Renovations are underway on many of the homes and several are currently for sale to

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low-to-moderate income buyers. Total project cost is estimated at \$1.6 million.

"With these 14 units, HOP will have acquired over 60 homes in Winnipeg's inner-city, of which 50 have been sold and the rest are under renovation or for sale," said HOP President Tom Yauk. "We appreciate the WHHI's support over the years and welcome this additional funding that will enable HOP to continue our efforts to stabilize and revitalize these neighbourhoods."

The North End Housing Project will receive \$71,800, including \$11,800 in land and demolition costs, to construct one affordable and energy-efficient home on a vacant lot in the Centennial neighbourhood. Once completed, the home will be sold to a low-to-moderate-income family. It will be a two-storey, three-bedroom design and will meet Manitoba Hydro R2000 standards for energy efficiency and indoor air quality. Total project cost is estimated at \$131,800.

"We are proud to be a partner with the WHHI and the community in helping develop these important housing initiatives for the Centennial neighbourhood," said Caroline Sorge, General Manager of the North End Housing Project.

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 \$72 million that has or will contribute to the repair, rehabilitation or construction of over 2900 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, organizations or citizens can call (204) 940-3070.

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Backgrounder

Housing Opportunity Partnership Inc.

14 Unit Project – Phase 3

This project involves the acquisition and renovation of 14 homes in Winnipeg's west end, in the neighbourhoods of Daniel McIntyre, St. Matthews, and a "pilot" unit in Centennial. The homes are available for sale to eligible households with low- to moderate-incomes and build on HOP's commitment of responsible community revitalization and the promotion and strengthening of home ownership opportunities.

Ten of the fourteen units have been acquired and renovations are in progress on these units. Several are substantially completed and in the sale process. The scope of the rehabilitation is characteristically extensive.

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The total project cost is estimated to be \$1,624,000. Manitoba Family Services and Housing is contributing \$500,000 towards the acquisition and rehabilitation of these 14 units, from the federal/provincial cost shared Affordable Housing Initiative, including \$360,000 through the New Homeownership Supply Program and \$140,000 of Neighbourhood Housing Assistance. The total funding contributions are \$500,000 for this project.

North End Housing Project, Inc.

Centennial Infill Home

The project is for the construction of one infill housing unit in the Centennial neighbourhood. The home will be pre-sold to a pre-qualified family in this neighbourhood. NEHP will manage the project directly until the home is transferred to the new owner.

This home is of the same design as other infill homes built by Spence Neighbourhood Association and North End Housing Project and meets the R2000 standards for energy efficiency and indoor air quality.

The total project cost is estimated at \$119,900. Manitoba Family Services and Housing is contributing \$60,000 towards the construction of this home, from the federal/provincial cost shared Affordable Housing Initiative, including \$50,000 through the New Homeownership Supply Program and \$10,000 of Neighbourhood Housing Assistance.

The project supports the recent announcement of the expansion of Neighbourhoods Alive! into the remaining Major Improvement neighbourhoods in Winnipeg's inner city, including the Centennial neighbourhood.