



PRESS RELEASE



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\$4 Million Home Repair Program for Thunder Bay Announced

THUNDER BAY, Ontario, June 06, 2007 — Canada's New Government, the Government of Ontario, and the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) today announced funding that will assist up to 200 low-income households to make urgently needed home repairs. The Northern Home Repair Program will assist homeowners to make repairs to address home health and safety problems or to make modifications to their homes for household members with disabilities. The \$4 million program is funded under the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

The announcement was made today by the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health and Minister for the Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development; Bill Mauro, MPP for Thunder Bay – Atikokan on behalf of the Honourable John Gerretsen, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; and Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board Chair Iain Angus.

"Canada's New Government is committed to supporting housing for low-income families," said Minister Clement. "Through our investment of \$2 million, we are making an important difference in the lives of families in Thunder Bay District who are working towards building a safer, stronger and better future for themselves."

"I am pleased to see this kind of assistance offered to low-income families and individuals in Thunder Bay District to help them create and maintain healthier and safer homes," said MPP Mauro. "This new program will help many households make vital repairs and modifications that they would otherwise be unable to make."

Eligible repairs include remediation of major structural, electrical, plumbing, heating, fire safety, septic and water system deficiencies. Modifications to accommodate people with disabilities, such as wheelchair ramps and lifts, are also eligible for funding under the program. Funding is limited to low-income households.

"This program is going to be a tremendous benefit to many homeowners and communities throughout the District," said Iain Angus, TBDSSAB Chair. "There are many families and individuals who need to make these kinds of repairs and otherwise can't afford them. This will help people to stay in their own homes longer."

Under the Northern Home Repair Program, qualified homeowners may receive grants or loans that earn forgiveness at eight per cent a year for the first 10 years, then two per cent a year for the final 10 years of the affordability period. The home must remain the principal and sole residence of the applicant for the entire 20 year period in order to earn complete forgiveness of the loan.

Applications are available from the Métis Nation of Ontario Housing Branch, a third-party service provider who administers the program on TBDSSAB's behalf (applicants do not need to be Métis). For further information, applicants should call 807-624-5024 or 1-800-891-5882 (toll-free), or check www.tbdssab.on.ca.

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Under the Northern component of the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program, funding is used to rehabilitate, renovate or replace substandard housing which will help to preserve affordable housing for low-income households in Northern Ontario. Funds may also be available to encourage affordable rental housing development where appropriate.

The new Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program Agreement comprises a commitment of \$301 million from each of the two senior levels of government. In total, the federal, provincial and municipal governments will invest at least \$734 million in the program, which will provide affordable housing for 20,000 households in Ontario.

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