



**PRESS RELEASE**



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## **\$1.1 Million Will Assist Homeless or Those at Risk of Becoming Homeless**

**WINNIPEG, Manitoba, November 16, 2006** — A new 20-unit transitional housing centre in North Logan – Centennial will soon offer a range of support services for single men and women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The project is being supported with over \$1.1 million from the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI).

The project was officially announced today during a sod-turning ceremony at 415 Logan Avenue by the Honourable Gord Mackintosh, Manitoba Minister of Family Services and Housing; Joy Smith, Member of Parliament for Kildonan – St. Paul, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development; and Councillor Justin Swandel, on behalf of Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz.

“This project will provide a supportive environment and services for those who are taking a first step into a new life and those who are most in need,” said Mackintosh.

“The Government of Canada recognizes that homelessness is no small challenge,” said MP Smith. “Today’s event is just one example of how this government is taking action to meet that challenge. It embodies the spirit of partnership that is so critical to addressing homelessness and helping our country’s most vulnerable citizens”

“This housing initiative demonstrates the power of partnership between the three levels of government, the Presbyterian Church and Winnipeg Inner City Missions”, said Councillor Justin Swandel.

The total estimated project cost is \$1.9 million. WHHI financial support includes from the governments of Canada and Manitoba under the New Rental Supply Program of the cost-shared Canada – Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative, and close to \$438,000 through the Government of Canada’s National Homelessness Initiative. In addition to the land, WICM is contributing \$650,000 in funding obtained from the Presbyterian Church in Canada and community donors.

The project involves the construction of a new two-storey building with no basement along Logan Avenue and Laura and Ellen Streets adjacent to the Centennial neighbourhood. The new residence will provide 20 transitional housing and support services mainly for single Aboriginal men and women. It will also offer culturally-appropriate programming, a food and clothing depot, a drop-in centre as well as counselling, advocacy and referral services.

The Winnipeg Inner City Missions Inc. (WICM) was formed in 2003 following an organizational merger between Anishinabe Fellowship Centre (AFC) and Flora House. AFC was established in 1968 by the Presbytery of Winnipeg, the local body of the Presbyterian Church in Canada to primarily serve Aboriginal individuals and families in the inner city. WICM currently operates a multi-service centre located on Laura Street that provides a number of services to the homeless and at risk of becoming homeless, including referral services, emergency food assistance, clothing bank, an adult drop in and advocacy services.

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“The Anishinabe Place of Hope will provide 20 individuals with the assurance of safe, secure housing so that they can concentrate their efforts on making lasting, positive change in their lives,” said Glen McCoubrey, chair of the Winnipeg Inner City Missions. “These people dream of contributing to the community and to their families and now that dream will come true, thanks to the generous funding from community donors, the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative.”

The funding is co-ordinated by the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI), 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 over \$91 million to repair, rehabilitate or construct over 3,600 units of housing as well as assist the homeless or those at risk of being homeless. The WHHI is 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.

### **For further information, please contact:**

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