



PRESS RELEASE



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Increased Funding for Home Repairs Program in Thunder Bay

THUNDER BAY, Ontario, April 18, 2008 — The Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (TBDSSAB) today celebrated increased funding of a program that will help up to 250 low-income households make urgent home repairs.

The Northern Home Repair Program helps homeowners make repairs to address home health and safety problems or modify their homes to meet the needs of household members with disabilities. Funds in the amount of \$900,000 were recently added from homeownership funds into the \$4 million program that is funded under the Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program.

The announcement was made by Joe Comuzzi, Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay – Superior North, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Canada, and the Honourable Jim Watson, Ontario’s Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

“The Government of Canada is committed to making affordable housing available in Ontario and across Canada for those who need it most,” said MP Comuzzi. “Here in Thunder Bay, the Northern Home Repair Program will allow homeowners to live in safe, quality housing and help them to build a better and stronger future.”

“This is a great example of what can be accomplished when governments work together, and I am pleased to see this kind of assistance being offered to low-income families in Thunder Bay District,” said Minister Watson. “This program will help low-income families make vital repairs and modifications that they would otherwise be unable to do.”

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. The maximum amount an applicant may receive is based on family size.

“There is definitely a great deal of interest in the program,” said Iain Angus, Chair of the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administrative Board (TBDSSAB). “The program’s target is to assist 250 homeowners with an average of \$20,000 per home. Staff will be networking with community agencies and groups to promote the program to seniors and families who may need accessibility and mobility modifications or address health and safety issues in their home. Homeowners who’ve had repairs completed to their homes are very grateful and appreciate the Government’s commitment to affordable housing programs.”

Under the Northern Home Repair Program, qualified homeowners receive forgivable grants or loans. The home must remain the principal and sole resident of the applicant for 20 years to earn forgiveness of the loan.

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 families in

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Northern Ontario.

The Canada – Ontario Affordable Housing Program 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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For more information visit: www.mah.gov.on.ca

Application Inquiries:

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 visit www.tbdssab.on.ca.