

# Partnerships to help Canada's most vulnerable families and individuals



The Government of Canada recognizes that homelessness is no small challenge and it is delivering on its commitment to help Canadians who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

On April 1, 2007, a new Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) came into effect, replacing the existing National Homelessness Initiative (NHI). This new Strategy is providing \$269.6 million over two years to help put in place the structures and supports needed to move homeless and at-risk individuals towards self-sufficiency and full participation in Canadian Society.

In addition, in December 2006, the Government of Canada announced a two-year, \$256 million extension of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's renovation assistance programs for low-income households. Through these renovation

programs, CMHC is helping to improve the quality of affordable housing for some 38,000 low-income Canadians, including seniors, people with disabilities, victims of family violence and Aboriginals. In St. John's, these renovation programs are delivered under the Provincial Home Repair Program (PHRP) by the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation. More information is available by visiting [www.nlhc.nf.ca](http://www.nlhc.nf.ca) or [www.cmhc.ca](http://www.cmhc.ca).

## The Homelessness Partnering Strategy

The new HPS builds and improves upon the National Homelessness Initiative by focusing on a 'housing-first' approach to homelessness in Canada, one that recognizes that once secure and stable housing has been established, other supports be instituted to improve health, parenting, education,

and employment.

Working with communities, provinces and territories, partners in the private and not-for-profit sectors, and Aboriginal partners, the Homelessness Partnering Strategy will bring together federal, provincial, and territorial investments in order to give easy access to the range of services and programs that homeless individuals and families need in order to become independent.

The new Homeless Partnering Strategy comprises three initiatives:

- **Homelessness Partnership Initiative (HPI)**
- **Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative (SFRPHI)**
- **Homelessness Accountability Network (HAN)**

## Homelessness Partnership Initiative (HPI)

Because different communities have different needs, the HPI has identified four categories of funding in order to respond to each community's unique situation:

**Designated Communities:** These are communities identified as having a significant problem with homelessness. As with the Supporting Communities Partnerships Initiative (SCPI) of the NHI, these communities will be able to access funding, over many years, that must be matched from other sources.

**Rural and Outlying Areas:** These areas, which include the North, will be eligible for funding to support one-time projects to fill specific gaps in rural infrastructure addressing homelessness.

**Partnerships with Aboriginal Groups:** These partnerships will ensure that services meet the acute and unique needs of the homeless Aboriginal people, whether in cities or rural areas.

**Federal Horizontal Pilot Projects:** Human Resources and Social Development Canada will work with federal departments such as Health, Justice, Citizenship and Immigration, and Indian Affairs and Northern Development on issues that could potentially lead to homelessness such as corrections, mental health, family violence, and immigration.

## Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative (SFRPHI)

The SFRPHI program makes surplus federal property and land available to community organizations, the not-for-profit sector, and other levels of government for projects such as residential and non-residential emergency services and permanent affordable housing.

Partners in the SFRPHI program include Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC), Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC), and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

## Homelessness Accountability Network (HAN)

HAN helps strengthen program accountability and develops knowledge to allow organizations to build their networks and share best practices. This initiative provides an opportunity to strengthen networks between the Homelessness Partnership Initiative, designated communities, and a range of other key stakeholders.

The HAN has three goals:

- to play a more pro-active role with respect to knowledge development;
- to support the creation of sustainable national and regional networks and partnerships; and,
- to enhance the community planning process and improve the ability to measure progress and report on results at the community and national levels.

To achieve these goals, the HAN will streamline results-reporting, strengthen program accountability, develop knowledge, share best practices, and build upon both the existing knowledge base of the National Homelessness Initiative's National Research Program and its research partners. It will also build upon the existing network of shelter and service providers and community organizations and continue to promote the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS).

Canada 

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
[www.homelessness.gc.ca](http://www.homelessness.gc.ca)