

INFORMATION - COMMUNIQUE

For Immediate Release – February 5, 2002

Province and City to inject \$14 million into *Building Communities* program

Winnipeg, Manitoba –Today, the Honourable Jean Friesen, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs joined Winnipeg Mayor Glen Murray in announcing *Building Communities*, a five year, \$14 million cost-shared capital investment initiative designed to address the physical needs of older residential neighbourhoods.

“The Building Communities initiative further strengthens our government’s commitment to revitalizing Winnipeg’s neighbourhoods by focusing on those older areas that must be protected from decline,” said Minister Friesen. “Experience has shown that community revitalization can be most successful when older neighbourhoods are targeted early for needed capital improvements. We are pleased to be a partner with the City of Winnipeg and local residents to enhance these neighbourhoods.”

“We are assisting residents in six mature neighbourhoods make significant capital improvements in their areas,” said Mayor Murray. “Whether it is upgrading swimming pools, playgrounds, renovating community clubs or improving lighting, this money will help residents achieve their goals.”

The six neighbourhood clusters that will benefit from the *Building Communities* program include:

- Luxton, Seven Oaks and St. John’s Park
- Central and North St. Boniface, Tissot and Dufresne
- Sargent Park and Minto
- Burrows-Central
- Wolseley
- St. George and Worthington

The administration of *Building Communities* will be carried out by the City’s Planning, Property and Development Department under the Building Communities Agreement. The agreement consists of two distinct programs.

Community Improvement Program (C.I.P.)

- About \$12.5 million will be used to improve or expand municipal infrastructure and public community facilities and to acquire land for housing, community facilities and urban safety initiatives.

A committee of local residents, business owners and other key stakeholders will be established in each neighbourhood to advise on local improvement issues and priorities.

Community Home Renovation Program (C.H.R.P.):

- About \$1.5 million has been allocated to encourage home renovations. The program will provide funding assistance to only owner occupants of properties assessed at \$90,000 or less during the first year, and may be expanded to landlords and rooming house owners thereafter.

Homeowners in the designated neighbourhoods may be eligible for a refund of up to 50 per cent of eligible renovation costs to a maximum of \$2,500. At least 20 per cent of all repair work (or \$1,000, whichever is less) must be for exterior work.

Eligible recipients (homeowners who meet the program criteria) will be receiving information in their mail regarding further program details and launch date for the Community Home Renovation Program. For more information call 986-2014.

Media inquiries may be directed to Terry Aseltine, A/Manager, Public Affairs, City of Winnipeg 986-5963-or Graham Gork, Information Resources Division, Province of Manitoba at 945-5795.