

For Immediate Release

New project helps ensure continuity in housing for our community's most vulnerable

WINNIPEG, December 3, 2014 – Thanks to a large grant received from the Winnipeg Foundation, along with additional funds received from Manitoba Housing, social housing providers will now have access to the necessary information, assistance, tools and other resources from the Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association to successfully transition through the expiration of operating agreements with the Province. This is not just good news for non-profit housing providers, it is good news for low to moderate income renters in Manitoba.

“This project addresses the most important issue social housing providers currently face, individually and collectively,” says Menno Peters, **Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association President**. “It will help us ensure the retention of affordable housing stock in Manitoba. We thank the Winnipeg Foundation and Manitoba Housing for helping to ensure that the affordable housing sector in Manitoba not only survives, but continues to thrive in its effort to meet the shelter needs of low to moderate income individuals and families.”

The expiration of operating agreements marks the end of existing government subsidies for social housing providers in Manitoba. Financial support from Canadian Housing & Mortgage Corporation (CHMC) had allowed providers to offer rent geared to income rental units for low to moderate income Canadians. Today, as social housing providers are paying off their mortgages, operational agreements are expiring and subsidies are ending. In Manitoba, this affects or will affect hundreds of providers and thousands of individuals and families.

Without proper planning and preparation, housing providers may be left vulnerable to financial stress and potential crisis. This project will help housing providers establish alternative and sustainable sources of revenue and develop accurate and reliable capital plans for their, now, older buildings. Ultimately, the tightly linked goals for the project are to build organizational capacity, thereby enabling providers to remain viable post operating agreement, and to maintain affordable housing rental stock for low to moderate income Manitobans.

“Ensuring everyone in our city has access to safe, affordable housing is essential if our community is to thrive. We know housing is an important aspect in poverty reduction and in creating safer, more vibrant neighbourhoods. These are all priorities of The Winnipeg Foundation and so we were pleased to make a grant toward the Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association’s important work,” says Richard Frost, CEO of The Winnipeg Foundation.

The MNPFA was incorporated in June 2011 in response to the changing funding and regulatory landscape of affordable housing and the desire to improve and strengthen our professional and organizational effectiveness and sustainability. Its mandate is to “build, support and strengthen its members who are diverse non-profit housing providers in Manitoba through services, educational opportunities and advocacy.



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