



## March 2019 Newsletter

# MNPHA Member Resources



Housing  
*Investment*  
Corporation

### Housing Investment Corporation Completes Inaugural Offering

The Housing Investment Corporation (formerly Sector Bank) was created by the leadership of BC Housing, Manitoba Housing, and Ontario's Housing Services Corporation, in partnership with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, to provide cost-effective long-term loans to non-profit Canadian affordable housing providers.

With the first round of financing complete, subsequent rounds of financing will be available in the near future. Those planning projects that will benefit from long-term (30-40 year) fixed-rate financing should review the [evaluation criteria](#) to assist with their planning.

[Read the news release on Housing Investment Corporation's inaugural offerings](#)



Would your organization benefit from a new roof or flooring made from recycled rubber? Kal's RePlay Fund helps cover the cost of projects that turn scrap tires into new rubber products to enhance facilities in the communities they serve.

Common recycled rubber products available in Canada include playground surfaces, flooring, roofing, landscape tiles, paving, garden mulch, and kids' play structures.

[Learn more about the grant and criteria here](#)

## MNPHA Membership Renewal will Begin March 15, 2019

MNPHA members will receive membership renewal information by mail around March 15, 2019 for the April 1, 2019-March 31, 2020 membership year.

Membership renewal packages will come with a short survey to help us know how we can be of service to your organization. Please take the time to fill it in.

If your organizational contact information has changed since last year, if you are not a member but would like to join, or if you do not receive your renewal information by March 31, please [e-mail Christina](#) or phone 204-797-6746.

**Learn About the Benefits of Membership  
for Non-Profits / Businesses / Government  
/ Individuals**

**Learn about the Benefits of  
Membership for Housing Providers**

## Government Relations

### Federal Government announces support for urban, rural and northern Indigenous Housing

On February 20th, Minister Jean-Yves Duclos was joined by Minister Seamus O'Regan and several Members of Parliament to announce \$638 million in funding under the National Housing Strategy would be dedicated to urban, rural and northern Indigenous housing.

This funding includes:

- \$413 million under Reaching Home (formerly the Homelessness Partnering Strategy);
- \$200 million under the previously announced Canada Community Housing Initiative; and,
- \$25 million under the National Co-investment Fund

The funding under the Canada Community Housing Initiative will be delivered through the province after a bi-lateral agreement is completed, and will extend operating funds for Indigenous Housing Providers developed under the Urban Native Housing agreements for 10 years.

Media coverage of the funding announcement included:

[CBC Canada](#)

[Winnipeg Free Press](#)

[CTV News](#)



## Bi-Lateral Agreement on Housing in the News

Manitoba's negotiations with Canada for the National Housing Strategy have made headlines recently. Here's what you should know:

### What is the Bi-Lateral Agreement?

The agreement will implement a number of measures in the National Housing Strategy with the Province of Manitoba, investing just over \$300 million over 10 years. The agreement will spell out how the province and the Government of Canada will work together to implement the *Community Housing Initiative* (to build and repair affordable housing), and by 2020 the *Canada Housing Benefit* (a rent supplement to individuals and families).

### Why is the Bi-Lateral Agreement Important for Housing Providers?

Until the bi-lateral agreement is signed, there will be no new funding available to develop or renovate non-profit housing in Manitoba. While there is some funding available to [preserve housing with Federal agreements](#) or to [develop](#) or [renovate](#) using CMHC's National Housing Co-Investment Fund, the funding available does not meet the needs in Manitoba. For example, the Co-Investment Fund requires a financial contribution from another level of government, and financing requirements mean most existing non-profits that have high levels of affordability are not eligible (or would need to raise their rents to access the funding).

The bi-lateral agreement also provides for extensions of existing operating subsidies that are set to expire over the next 10 years. Unless these agreements are extended, non-profit providers who have 100% rent-geared-to-income units will face major financial challenges and would need to increase rents to be sustainable. This would impact low-income tenants, including thousands of seniors, families, and people who would be at a high risk of homelessness.

### What are our Elected Officials Saying About it?

While Federal MPs have [suggested that the province is hesitant](#) to sign the agreement, Brian Pallister [says the negotiations are ongoing](#). In our meeting with Minister Stefanson, she believed the agreement will be signed in the Spring, with the [Manitoba Housing Strategy](#) to follow.

## MNPHA Events



**Ready, Set, (Re)Build!**



## March-April, 2019 (Online and In-Person) Ready, Set, (Re)Build!

If you are considering building or rebuilding affordable housing in your community, Ready, Set, (Re)Build! (RSB!) is for you. RSB! is a blended course, with material adapted from BCNPHA who have been successfully implementing the course for years. It consists of an online component and face-to-face session, that will walk you through the development process. RSB! is for organizations of any size who are contemplating, or in the process of building or redeveloping affordable housing in their community.

Registration deadline extended for Brandon participants. The workshop in Winnipeg is now full, but you can still register by March 8 to access the online training material and attend the in-person workshop in Brandon on April 13 (you may even be able to carpool with our instructors if needed!)

[Learn More and Register](#)



## Preparing Well for a Quick and Fun Annual General Meeting

The AGM is an opportunity to celebrate your organization, its people, and its achievements over the past year. This workshop will prepare Boards of Directors for a well-designed, engaging AGM that they can look forward to. Attendees will leave the workshop with templates for agendas, minutes, and speaking notes that will keep their AGMs quick and fun for years to come.

**When:** April 16, 6pm-8:30pm (light dinner served at 5:30, optional)

**Where:** Sargent Tommy Prince Place, 90 Sinclair Ave., Winnipeg

**Who:** Board Members or staff of organizations who plan AGMs

- \$50 for the first person for MNPCHA member organization, \$25 for each additional person (must be fully paid members in the 2019/20 membership year)
- \$100/person for non-members

Register by April 12, 2019

[Learn More and Register](#)



Building  
Partnerships  
2019

The 7th Annual  
Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association  
Conference

SAVE THE DATE  
November 18-19  
CanadInns Polo Park  
[www.mnpa.com/conference](http://www.mnpa.com/conference)

Save the Date! MNPHA's 7th Annual Building Partnerships conference is being held November 18-19, 2019 at CanadInns Polo Park. The conference planning committee is currently setting priorities for the educational sessions and speakers at the event. If you have a suggested topic or speaker, please provide them to Christina by [e-mail](mailto:christina@mnpha.com) or phone (204-797-6746) by February 28.

## Notice: MNPHA Annual General Meeting

**June 14, 2018, 12:45pm-1:15pm (workshop sessions to be held from 10am-3:00pm)  
Masonic Memorial Centre; 420 Corydon Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB**

MNPHA members are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting on Friday, June 14, 2019.

The AGM is held in conjunction with workshop sessions, more details and registration information will be provided by May 1, 2019.

At the AGM, members will hear highlights of MNPHA's 2018/19 fiscal year, approve the reviewed financial statements, appoint the Auditor for the 2019/20 financial year and elect Board Directors.

Two positions on the Board of Directors will be available to be filled/re-elected by voting members present at the AGM.

**The Nominations Committee is now accepting nominations from members. If you wish to nominate a person to stand for election to the Board of Directors, please be in touch with MNPHA Executive Director, Christina Maes Nino at [execdir@mnpha.com](mailto:execdir@mnpha.com); 204-797-6746.**

Your nominations will be forwarded to the Nominations Committee.

## News and Updates



### Rent Smart as an Effective Tenant Selection Tool

RentSmart's new digital verification tool is helping landlords and housing providers select tenants that are knowledgeable about renting.

Tenant selection is a challenge landlords and housing providers face. Traditional tools such as reference and credit checks combined with intuition are helpful, but they do not always reflect a potential tenant's level of knowledge on how to have a successful tenancy. Besides, some populations and those who are new to renting face screening barriers simply because they lack references or a credit score and these folks may actually be very good tenants.

RentSmart, a prevention education approach has rapidly expanded across BC, Ontario, Alberta, and Manitoba, and offers another tool to support property managers and housing providers in their tenant selection process. Landlords have the opportunity to house applicants who have the RentSmart certificate, which means the applicant completed a 6-module course learning such things as how to look after their place; create a financial plan to pay rent on time and in full; and communicate respectfully and effectively. Graduates receive a certificate, which housing providers can recognize as one reference. The RentSmart certificate can be verified. To make things easy for housing providers, verification has recently become a quick two-step process: 1) tenant shows you RentSmart certificate and 2) you verify online in less than a minute.

Along with the advantages of having another tool to make informed tenant decisions, the rapidly growing number of RentSmart Landlords - those who accept the RentSmart certificate - are now being recognized as part of Canada's housing solution.

[Download the Rent Smart Brochure](#)

[Learn more about the Rent Smart Certificate](#)



## 2018 Winnipeg Street Health Survey Report

The 2018 Winnipeg Street Health Survey was a research study focusing on the health status, housing, and social service needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg.

### Key Findings Related to Housing:

1. Homelessness is not static: survey participants had stayed in a variety of different locations in the month prior to the survey, including shelters, transitional housing, in unsheltered locations, with friends and family, and in institutional settings
2. The vast majority of people who are homeless (89%) have experienced homelessness due to housing issues: they were evicted, the conditions were poor, the housing was unsafe, they moved to the city, or housing became unaffordable
3. A lack of affordable housing in Winnipeg is also the most common barrier to ending homelessness for people: 77% said that rent is too high and 75% said there is a lack of suitable housing

[Read the full report](#)

## Job and Volunteer Board

### MNPHA's Job Board: Not only for Employment Postings Anymore!

Did you know that MNPHA's job postings are the most "clicked" item in our newsletter?

MNPHA has heard from our members that they would like a place to post Board Member openings.

Do you have a position you are trying to fill in your organization? MNPHA is always accepting job and volunteer postings for display on its website.

The Job Board is located under the Resources tab on the [MNPHA website](#).

To have your position added to the board, send the pertinent information to:

[execdir@mnpha.com](mailto:execdir@mnpha.com)



Are you on Facebook?  
MNPHA is too.

Click [HERE](#) to visit our page.

See what's happening on our social sites:

