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MNPCHA Events

Spirit of Housing Awards

Do you have a friend, colleague, or mentor who has the spirit of housing? Celebrate them by nominating them for a Spirit of Housing Award!

MNPCHA's mission is to build a thriving, sustainable non-profit housing sector. We work together with our members to promote housing excellence through the Spirit of Housing Awards. The Awards recognize and reward individuals (staff, board members, and tenants), groups, and non-profits who have made an outstanding contribution to the quality of non-profit housing. The awards will be presented at the 10th Annual Building Partnerships Conference, September, 26 2022 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

We're proud of our members. We know you're proud of each other, and we thank everyone who submits nominations for this year's awards. For more information about the awards and to nominate someone [click here](#).

Last years Spirit of Housing Awards (pictured below) was a small but successful event, and we look forward to celebrating with a larger group this year!

Nominate a Spirit of Housing Award Recipient by August
15



Building Partnerships
2022 The 10th Annual
 MNPFA Conference

**2022 Building Partnerships
 Conference - Keynote
 Announcement: Marie-Josée Houle**

The upcoming Building Partnerships Conference will be held on September 26 and 27 this year. We are so looking forward to gathering in person, and are thrilled to welcome Marie-Josée Houle, Federal Housing Advocate, as one of our keynote speakers.

Ms. Houle's appointment marks a new chapter in a career defined by her work in the affordable housing and homelessness sector. Ms. Houle is an experienced leader who is recognized for her community activism, expertise in human rights, and extensive knowledge of the housing and homelessness system.

Most recently, she was the Executive Director for Action-Logement, an Ottawa housing loss prevention organization. Her diverse experience in the housing sector spans development consulting and project management for affordable housing developments, advocating for tenant rights at all three levels of government, and working with diverse partners to address human rights violations related to housing and homelessness. Building a sense of community and supporting and amplifying marginalized voices is particularly important to her.



Save the Dates!



News and Updates

Celebrating Non-Profit Housing in Manitoba

Now that gatherings can take place, MNPHA has been celebrating key anniversaries with our members and partners who have reached milestones. If you are holding a housing event or celebration, let us know and we will promote it and be there to celebrate with you.

On June 11, Westminster Housing celebrated "Housing and its Heroes" with a 90th birthday celebration of founder (and Spirit of Leadership award recipient) Charles Huband. Tenants, Board members (past and present), government representatives, and neighbourhood partners joined Charles for the unveiling of a mural created by Winnipeg artist Miriam Rudolph and participants of Art City, tours of housing in the neighbourhood, and a BBQ to celebrate the contributions that Westminster Housing has made to the West Broadway community.

On June 30, the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba celebrated 30 years of creating a community of belonging with tours and a block party including a dance party. Did you know that IRCOM started as SEARCOM (South East Asian Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba) and changed over time to empower a huge diversity of newcomers to the province? The organization lives its values of empowerment: about 25% of its staff are tenants or former tenants of the organization, and approximately 12% of its residents have moved out directly into home ownership.



Housing Supports Initiative Profile: Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation's Ask Auntie Project

The Housing Supports Initiative (HSI), a \$2.56m program funded by the

Government of Manitoba and administered by MNPHA, is currently funding 19 unique projects that expand the capacity of organizations supporting people who are exiting or at risk of homelessness. The Initiative will run for two years, and is projected to improve the housing circumstances of around 450 individuals, and provide eviction prevention support to around 900 individuals. This month we are checking in with Ask Auntie about their HSI project.

The Ask Auntie Project was developed at the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (BNRC) during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, in March 2021, as a response to a lack of resources amidst widespread closures across the city. These closures left vulnerable and homeless populations quite literally out in the cold, and Ask Auntie stepped in to fill the gaps, with a focus on providing support to Indigenous people.

Ask Auntie provides an array of supports to individuals in need of everything from a hot coffee and access to hygiene supplies to a community mailbox. Program Coordinator Florence Halcrow explains that the community mailbox allows the vulnerable and homeless population in Brandon to make copies of their ID and keep the originals safe.

The Blue Door project, another branch of Ask Auntie, solved the problem of major resource gaps created by Covid-19 by providing a space to eat meals provided by shelters and food banks, a place to use washrooms and access hygiene supplies, and somewhere to fill out applications for housing, income assistance, or identification, all while adhering to social distancing practices.

Ask Auntie currently has four staff members, two working out of BNRC and two at the Blue Door, as well as volunteers and practicum students. By establishing relationships with precariously housed individuals and working with them to create pathways through colonial structures, Ask Auntie is helping protect tenancies and create access to housing. The grassroots model the project follows means that the Aunties work is broad and varied, and they meet program participants where they are at.

Halcrow says "It takes a good network and community to make something like this happen. We wouldn't be able to do it on our own."

Call for Letters of Intent for Capital Projects to Create Transitional or Supportive Housing in Winnipeg

End Homelessness Winnipeg as Community Entity for Reaching Home is now accepting Letters of Intent for capital projects that will increase the supply of transitional and supportive housing units available in Winnipeg by March 31, 2024.

Eligible projects include new construction, and conversions (renovations) from non-residential use to transitional or supportive housing units. Funding is not intended to renovate existing housing, but rather, to create new units. **If your organization has capacity and your Capital project is underway or is nearing completion and in need of additional funds to complete**, please submit an expression of interest letter requesting to be considered.

Apply by August 15, 2022

[Learn more here](#)

Rent Relief Fund at Wolseley Family Place

The Rent Relief Fund (RRF), administered by MNPHA and funded by the Province of Manitoba, provides interest-free loans to eligible tenants who are behind in their rent, utilities, or need to move into more suitable housing.

The RRF team will be doing outreach at Wolseley Family Place (222 Furby St.) on **July 14 from 1:00-3:00pm** and on **August 12 from**

JOIN US FOR A
POP-UP EVENT WITH

THE RENT RELIEF FUND

AT

WOLSELEY
FAMILY
PLACE 

2ND FLOOR - 222 FURBY ST
JULY 14, 2022 (1:00-3:30PM)
AUGUST 12, 2022 (1:00-3:30PM)

Childcare is available. Please contact
Kristen with any questions about the
event: 204-560-3145
For questions about the Rent
Relief Fund please call:
431-813-4357

If you are a tenant living in Manitoba
and are having difficulty paying your
rent, damage deposit, or utility bills,
are in arrears or facing eviction, you
may be eligible for a no-interest loan
of up to \$2,500.

Please visit us at the Wolseley Family
Place or at www.manitobahelps.com
for more information!



1:00-3:30pm. Childcare will be available.

Please contact Kristen at 204-560-4357 with
any questions about the event.

To learn more about the Rent Fund [click here](#).

Call for Nominations: MNPHA is seeking new board members!

MNPHA is looking for new members to join our Board of Directors! This is a great opportunity to enter into a leadership role in the non-profit housing sector and gain valuable volunteer experience.

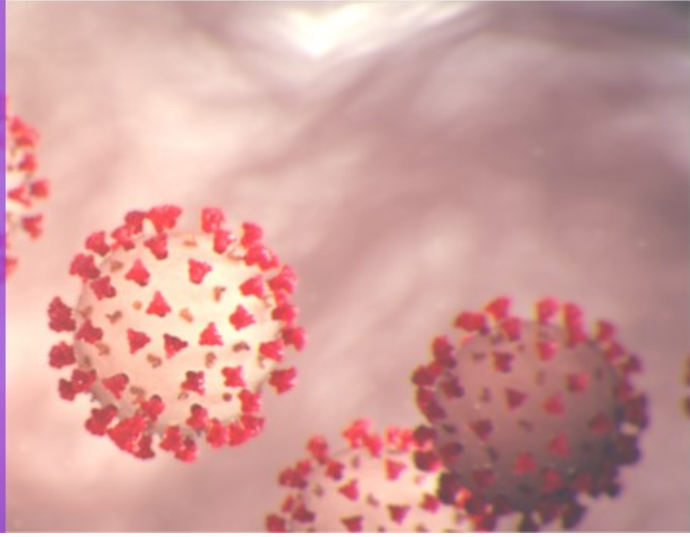
The MNPHA Board of Directors is the governing mind of the organization, and is responsible for approving the Strategic Plan, setting the overall direction of the organization, and financial stewardship. The Board of Directors delegates operational and administrative activities of the Association to the Executive Director. As a board member you would be expected to prepare for and participate in Board meetings, help monitor the performance of the Association, participate in the approval of the annual budget and the review of the Association's mission, vision, objectives, and strategic plan, among other tasks.

There is one seat that will be open to a representative of a Housing Provider member of MNPHA, and the nomination committee is specifically seeking a nominee from an organization with an Urban Native Housing Agreement. Nominations are open up-to seven days in advance of the MNPHA AGM (i.e. by September 19)

If this opportunity interests you please contact MNPHA's Executive Director, Christina Maes Nino, at execdir@mnpha.com with a brief letter of interest, or any questions you may have about the role.

**COVID-19 Resources for
Non-Profit Housing
Providers in Manitoba**

**[https://mnpha.com/
covid-19/](https://mnpha.com/covid-19/)**



Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association | www.mnpha.com
membership@mnpha.com | (204)797-6746 ext.3

