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MNPCHA is happy to welcome three new members to our Association! Morris Manor, The West End Commons (St. Matthews Non Profit Housing), and Betelstadur Housing Cooperative have joined MNPCHA as housing providers.

There are a number of ways joining MNPCHA can benefit your organization, not least of which is access to the members-only newsletter, which contains updates about funding, exclusive events, and other opportunities. MNPCHA members have their voices heard by elected officials, giving them the opportunity to shape the non-profit housing sector from the inside out. If you'd like to learn more about joining MNPCHA head to our [website](#) or [contact us](#) directly, we are always happy to hear from you!



Housing Supports Initiative Recipient Profile: Kinew Housing Inc.

The Housing Supports Initiative, a \$2.56m program funded by the Government of Manitoba and administered by MNPCHA, 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 MNPCHA spoke with Lawrence Poirier from Kinew Housing Inc..

Kinew Housing Inc. was created in Winnipeg in 1970 by a small group of community members who were concerned about the lack of decent and affordable housing available to Indigenous people in this city. At the time, Kinew Housing Inc. was the nation's first Indigenous-led non profit urban housing corporation. Kinew's success has stimulated the creation of many more urban Indigenous non-profit housing societies located across Canada.

Kinew focuses primarily on the acquisition and rehabilitation of older homes, and is using the HSI funding to hire a Housing Support Worker who is connecting with vulnerable tenants. In addition to helping create secure tenancies and prevent eviction, the Support Worker is undertaking a training program with Mediation Services.

Although the position is very new, results are already being seen. Kinew Manager, Lawrence Poirier, says "the Support Worker has been working with tenants to make sure they are staying on top of water and hydro bills, trying to make sure readings are accurate, bringing that aspect under control. The last thing we want is to evict someone because of a water bill". The Support Worker has also been working with tenants who struggle with hoarding, which Poirier says "is an ongoing process, from something as simple as bringing a handful of garbage bags to their home to connecting tenants to resources that can help them".

Kinew's properties are mainly single family homes with yards, and waste disposal and basic yard maintenance is the responsibility of the renter. When this is neglected a tenant runs the risk of garnering complaints based on the Neighbourhood Liveability By-law, which regulates the maintenance of properties. Accessing waste

disposal services through 311 or navigating complex application systems for supportive programming can be onerous, and the Support Worker helps tenants move through these processes, ensuring they are aware of their responsibilities and reducing complaints from neighbours.



Rent Relief Fund Update

The Rent Relief Fund (RRF) has had a successful 2022 so far! The team has grown, with an additional three case management support workers and a new team lead being hired in the last couple months.

The RRF entered into a new relationship with the Community Financial Helpline (SEED Winnipeg) in February. The Community Financial Helpline is operating as the first point of contact, assisting clients in gathering appropriate documentation and navigating the application process. The RRF has experienced a significant increase in applications and efficiency since the partnership began with SEED and the Community Financial Helpline - people applying are now contacted for intake within a week of applying, and those at high risk of eviction are prioritized for intake. Over 400 loans have been granted to tenants in 2022 across Manitoba.

RRF case management support workers have received feedback from numerous clients about how helpful the fund has been:

"A full-time university student and a single mom was waiting for her student loan to pay her rent. She works part-time and picking up more shifts was not an option unless she dropped out of school. She is in her last year of nursing school and needed help to pay her rent until she receives her student loan. Getting approved for a loan with us helped her and her son stay housed and stay in school."

"We received an application the day before a client had a hearing scheduled with the Residential Tenancies Branch. We were able to expedite his application, negotiate a mediated agreement with the landlord, and attend his hearing to advocate on his behalf to secure his tenancy until the end of his lease. If the Rent Relief Team had not gotten involved in this tenant's situation, the hearing would have resulted in an eviction."

"A client lived in non-affordable housing and had rent arrears. His life was also impacted by COVID and Pneumonia. After helping him pay his arrears, we worked with him to help him find a place within his budget and paid his damage deposit and first month's rent."

We encourage all providers of affordable housing to share the Rent Relief Fund's information with tenants in need of additional support. How can landlords help?:

- Share information with tenants regarding the program. You can [print a poster here](#)
- Help them submit their application and [required documents](#). Applying online is the fastest and best way to apply.
- Remind tenants that we need to speak with them to assess their application. If they do not hear from us within a week, it's because we could not reach them by phone or e-mail. They can call us at 431-813-4357

For Rent Relief Fund inquiries & to apply [click here](#).



Housing Day Debrief Session - open to the public

MNP is hosting Manitoba's first ever Housing Day on May 5, 2022. Housing Day will allow leaders in non-profit housing to share the successes and challenges of the sector with elected officials, and raise issues that matter to Manitoba's affordable housing community. In addition to meeting with government, Housing Day attendees will be joined by Kerri Irvin-Ross, a former NDP MLA who held various positions including Deputy Premier and Minister of Housing and Community Development, Cindy Gilroy, a City Councillor with

extensive experience in housing, and the Honourable Dan Vandal, who has a long record working with community and advocating for urban renewal.

Housing Day is a members-only event and registration is at capacity, but MNPHA is hosting a Housing Day debrief session on May 19th that is open to non-members. The Housing Day debrief session will provide an opportunity for those who participated in the event to reflect on what was learned and how to move forward, and give those who were unable to attend a chance to hear about how it went.

The Honourable Rochelle Squires, Minister of Families, will join the group to share the Manitoba government's plan for Housing in Manitoba, providing more context for a discussion surrounding MNPHA's future advocacy plans.

This event is open to the public, and you can register by [clicking here](#). To read the key messages MNPHA will bring to the table on Housing Day [click here](#).

HOUSING NEWS



Province Enabling Partnership to Create Additional Transitional Housing Units

The Manitoba government is announcing an annual subsidy of \$595,226 at 26 Gaylene Pl. in Winnipeg to support a partnership agreement with Makoon Transition Inc. and S.A.M. (Properties) Holding Inc. to create thirty-two transitional housing units, eight of which will be designated for additional tenant supports for families who have been impacted by Child and Family Services (CFS).

Makoon Transition Inc. is a reunification and prevention program that assists families in a supported-living environment. Makoon Transition Inc. provides supervised transitional living space for parents who are in the process of being reunified with their children. The organization operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and always has multiple staff on-site to offer support for families.

For more information about the subsidy and the partnership between Makoon and S.A.M. [click here](#).

Hudson Bay Company Building to Include 300 Affordable Homes

A federal investment of \$65 million that will provide almost 300 new, affordable homes for members of local First Nations, including families, Elders, and post-secondary students, was recently announced. This initiative is also supported by a contribution of \$35 million from the Province of Manitoba, bringing the total support to \$100 million.

The new affordable homes will be located in the Hudson's Bay Company's (HBC) historic building in downtown Winnipeg, which was gifted to SCO for this revitalization project. The project, which is tentatively called "Wehwehneh Bahgahkinahgohn" – meaning "it is visible" in Anishinaabemowin – will build a space for economic and social reconciliation, according to SCO. A portion of the units will be culturally safe assisted living units for First Nation Elders, and families living in the converted HBC building and employees working there will have access to high quality, licensed child care.

The project is slated to start this fall, with the first residents moving in in fall 2025. To read more about the project [click here](#).

2022 Federal Budget Focuses on Housing but funding for non-profit affordable housing renewal and development may remain elusive in Manitoba

You can read more about the provincial and federal budgets, and MNPHA's reaction to both, on our website by [clicking here](#). MNPHA was also in this [Winnipeg Free Press](#) article that addresses the housing market. Christina Maes Nino says "The amount that they've added to the budget is still not enough to affect core housing need in Manitoba, in any serious way". The article describes that MNPHA is happy to see increases to Ottawa's funding for co-operative housing, and to see incentives for municipalities to get housing built, which could work if targeted toward affordable rental units.

Christina is also quoted in this [Free Press article](#) about the Indigenous housing crisis, saying “I am shocked at how little they’ve invested. The urban, rural, northern Indigenous housing strategy is the biggest gap, and the most shameful gap, in the budget.”

Other budget reactions and resources include:

Canadian Housing and Renewal Association welcomes housing focus but raises concerns over specific measures, notably urban Indigenous housing: <https://chra-achru.ca/news/chras-reaction-to-the-2022-federal-budget/>

Cooperative Housing Federation of Canada: Federal budget prioritizes housing: \$1.5B sets the stage to build the next generation of co-op housing: <https://chfcanada.coop/budget2022/>

ONPHA’s initial response: 2022 federal budget: <https://chfcanada.coop/budget2022/>

BCNPHA 2022 Federal budget analysis: Many hits and a few misses: <https://bcnpha.ca/2022-federal-budget-analysis/>

RESOURCES



This free HSC SHARE webinar, taking place on May 10 from 10:30am to noon, will look at key considerations and steps to take when undertaking an affordable housing development project. Whether you’re overseeing the work in-house or working with a more seasoned developer, it’s important to understand the basics.

Featuring Graeme Hussey, President of Cahdco this session will cover:

- Basics on how to develop affordable housing
- Key stakeholders to engage
- Ways to achieve financial viability
- Examples of recently completed successful projects

For more information and to register [click here](#).

COVID 19 Vaccine Update

Based on recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, Manitoba will be offering a second booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine to:

- residents of personal care homes and elderly persons housing congregate living sites (such as supportive housing and assisted living) with no age limit;
- individuals aged 70 or older who live in the community; and
- First Nations, Inuit and Metis people aged 50 or older, regardless of where they live.

Head to the [Manitoba Government](#) website to learn more.

JOB BOARD



MNPHA is hiring a Financial Administrator - extended deadline

As part of a small team and in collaboration with the Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association’s (MNPHA’s) bookkeeper, the Financial Administrator is both responsible for ensuring MNPHA has high standards of financial controls and meets the important deadlines of the Rent Relief Fund, a loan program established to support people who are at risk of losing housing or in need of financial support to attain housing, and financial and administrative support for the other programs that

MNPHA administers. For the full job description [click here](#), and note that the deadline apply has been extended to May 9.



The Jubilee Fund is hiring a Program and Event Coordinator

The Program and Event Coordinator provides support primarily to the Fund Development Manager to achieve the organization’s mission, vision and values. Reporting to the Fund Development Manager, the Program and Event Coordinator is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the rent guarantee program for at-risk women, including administration, adapting and reporting of the new program. For the full job description [click here](#).



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