



For Immediate Release

### **Government of Canada provides \$ 1.17 million for transitional housing in Brampton**

BRAMPTON-Dr. Ruby Dhalla, Member of Parliament for Brampton-Springdale, on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing, announced funding of \$ 1.17 million for St. Leonard's House, a 24-unit facility under development to help alleviate homelessness in Brampton.

The funding is being provided under the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI), one of the components of the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative (NHI).

"The Government of Canada is committed to providing all Canadians with the support they need to thrive and prosper in their workplace and community. We recognize the important work being done by St. Leonard's House to fight homelessness and empower young men with the tools and resources they need to succeed" said Dr Dhalla.

Under the project, St. Leonard's House will receive funding to develop a 24-unit facility that will provide transitional housing to homeless men or those at risk of homelessness. Staff will provide support services to help residents deal with personal issues such as substance abuse, employment, interpersonal relationships and life skills. Funding will also support a youth woodworking project at the site.

"This is a tremendous contribution from the Government of Canada to St. Leonard's House," said John Lomax, President of the Board of Directors, St. Leonard's House.

"These funds will help us expand the residential component of our facility, making a permanent home for men who were once living on the street. The vision and support shown by the federal government and the Region of Peel, with whom we have developed an invaluable relationship over the years, are turning lives around. The men here at St. Leonard's are acquiring new life and job skills, new jobs, new-found confidence and, for many, a place to call home for the first time in their adult lives."

By working in partnership with community organizations, the private and voluntary sectors and other levels of government, the NHI is bringing all stakeholders together to develop local solutions that work to address particular needs and challenges faced by homeless people. Through this coordinated approach, the following programs are available to support communities across Canada: the SCPI; the Regional Homelessness Fund; the National Research Program; the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System; and the Urban Aboriginal Homelessness Fund. The Government of Canada launched the NHI in December 1999 to support communities' efforts to help Canadians out of homelessness. Since the launch, the Government of Canada has contributed over \$8.9 million to alleviate homelessness in the regions of Peel and Halton and in Dufferin County. Funding for this project was provided for in the March 2005 federal Budget.

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