A Catholic Health Network
Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba
Corporation catholique de la santé du Manitoba

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January 18, 2006

Presentation to Executive Policy Committee – City of Winnipeg

Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative

Presentation by: Julie Turenne-Maynard, Service coordinator for the WHHI in St. Boniface on behalf of the Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba

Purpose:

1. To support the extension of the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative mandate to March 31, 2008.
2. Enlighten EPC on the existence of homelessness in the community of St. Boniface
3. Winnipeg Housing Initiative – Housing Improvement Zones

1.0 SUPPORT WHHI

Background: Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba

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The Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba (CHCM) came into existence on October 5th, 2000 as the Grey Nuns of Manitoba officially transferred to the newly established Corporation the stewardship, governance and ownership of their health care works; Sara Riel, Taché Centre, Foyer Valade, St. Amant Centre, Youville Centre (Saint-Boniface and Saint-Vital locations), Centre de Santé de Saint-Boniface, St. Boniface General Hospital and Ste. Rose General Hospital. In 2003, the Benedictine Sisters transferred St. Joseph Residence and Winnipegosis and District Health Centre to CHCM. Since then, CHCM has also established the Despins Residence and Centre Flavir Laurent.

The Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba is an organization which sponsors holistic health care for individuals, families and communities in a tradition of enduring care and compassion.

CHCM is committed to the vision and the philosophy of the Grey Nuns and will continue into the future the mission of compassionate care inspired by Saint Marguerite d'Youville.

Since 1999, CHCM has been playing an integral role with respect to the WHHI by taking a lead as the sponsor organization for several projects that have been identified as priorities to respond to needs in the communities of St. Boniface and St. Vital.

Thus far, the WHHI has funded important projects responding to the needs of the homeless at those at-risk of becoming homeless such as:

- Fees for a consultant to create a community strategic plan that is now being used as a development tool
- Addition to Teen Stop Jeunesse in St. Vital
- Purchase of a building and provision of support services for Centre Flavie Laurent, a centre that provides basic needs (household items, furniture and clothing) to low income families and the homeless
- Fees to engage a youth outreach coordinator and service coordinator for the community of St. Boniface

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These worthwhile projects could not have been realized without the WHHI funding. This initiative is addressing real problems that exist in our communities, is providing a mechanism to resolve some issues, and assist many individuals who are homeless or at-risk at being so. A lot more work needs to be done, and this initiative is a mechanism that allows the communities to create solutions for people in difficulty.

The CHCM would like to publicly support the recommendation that EPC approve the extension of the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative mandate to March 31, 2008.

2.0 Enlighten EPC on the existence of homelessness in the communities of St. Boniface and St. Vital

Many individuals believe that homeless individuals and at-risk groups are centralized in the downtown Winnipeg areas (core area, West Broadway, Osborne Village). Few realize that homelessness and at-risk people are also found in community St. Boniface. It is important to apprise you of this fact for a number of reasons:

- One must be aware that homelessness and low-income families also reside in St. Boniface, and resources are needed to address those people in need.
- The average family income in Central St. Boniface is still under $30,000.
- 75% of the Employment Income Assistance case load in St. Boniface are suffering from mental health concerns; these people are often homeless or at-risk of being so
- There is an increasing number of unilingual francophone independent immigrants and refugees who are establishing themselves in our community, many at which are at-risk of being homeless. Initiatives are currently being studied to address this problem and to find answers to and provide and establish accommodations for those who are currently residing in other areas of the city.

3.0 Winnipeg Housing Initiative – Housing Improvement Zones

Although the majority of the Winnipeg Housing Initiative has been focused on the inner city and has been successful in improving housing conditions in these Major Improvement Areas, I would like to enlighten you on the fact that the Rehabilitation Areas of St. Boniface also need to receive attention with respect to the Winnipeg Housing Policy. New projects are being considered that will improve the lives of newcomers and low income earners in our community by looking at refurbishing older homes or facilities, and we hope that the WHI will be able to provide us with assistance and become a key partner in making the projects a reality.

Thank you for your attention.