Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association
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November 8, 2023

Re: **Support for Housing Accelerator Fund Application**

The Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association (MNPHA) is an association of almost 150 non-profit housing providers and organizations/private-sector partners, representing over 25,000 units of affordable and social housing across 25 communities in Manitoba.

MNPHA would like to express its support for the City of Winnipeg's application to the CMHC Housing Accelerator Fund as a once in a generation opportunity for the City of Winnipeg to play an active and funded role in creating deeply affordable housing to address the needs of the residents of Winnipeg. On any given night in Winnipeg, over 1500 people are experiencing homelessness; in 2021, over 34,000 households were in core housing need, which puts them at risk of losing their home. Who are these 34,000 households? Most commonly, they are single people considered to be the 'working poor' for whom affordable rent is $350-$850/month. Additionally, they are single parent, female-led households; they are young adults; they are older seniors; they are Indigenous-led households; and, they are recent migrant households. An adequate supply and array of housing options benefits a city and its people with social inclusion, safety, healthy communities and healthy citizens, all of which attract businesses, workers, and newcomers.

The City of Winnipeg has committed, through housing strategies past and present, planning documents, and the Poverty Reduction Strategy, to being an active partner in the creation of affordable housing. The Housing Accelerator Fund will provide the City major resources to do this.

Housing that is affordable to those in core housing need simply cannot be built without subsidy from government. Building affordable housing quickly and most efficiently requires all levels of government working together. The Housing Accelerator Fund could bring almost $200 million dollars to help the City of Winnipeg play a more proactive and meaningful role in addressing homelessness and housing need. Importantly, it proposes changes to policies and by-laws that will make affordable housing development faster and easier beyond the lifetime of the fund. Conditions placed on this funding from the Federal Government should be weighed against the potential lost opportunity to address a pressing issue that opinion polls show time and time again that Winnipeggers care deeply about: ending homelessness and ensuring all Winnipeggers have a home they can afford.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for questions or additional information regarding our support for proposal to the Housing Accelerator Fund.

Regards,

Christina Maes Nino
Executive Director
Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association