Nanette McKay
Executive Director
North End Community Renewal Corporation
509 Selkirk Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2W 2M6

March 8, 2005

Honorable Sam Katz
Mayor of Winnipeg

Re: **Request for Continued City Support of Housing Renewal in Winnipeg's North End**

Honorable Mayor Sam Katz,

North End Community Renewal Corporation (NECRC) would like to congratulate you on your election as Mayor and wish you well in administering the many challenges you face with your constituency to continue to make Winnipeg a wonderful place to live. We acknowledge the difficulty you are facing to meet the many demands of this year's city budget, however we would like to urge you to find a way to continue your support for housing renewal in the inner city.

Winnipeg has a good record of investment in the *Housing Improvement Zones* (HIZ). North End Community Renewal Corporation and its neighborhood partners want to continue to work hand-in-hand with the city on programs of housing renewal through the *Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative*. The tri-partite agreement to revitalize housing in William Whyte and North Point Douglas has enabled renovation, redevelopment and new development in neighbourhoods where people were abandoning properties only a few years ago.

NECRC is a non-profit community renewal organization established in 1998 by a coalition of Winnipeg community organizations. Its mandate is to promote the economic, social and cultural renewal of the North End of Winnipeg. NECRC serves 11 neighborhoods in the geographic area north of the CPR tracks, south of Carruthers Ave., east of McPhillips Street and west of the Red River including North Point Douglas, William Whyte, Lord Selkirk, Dufferin, Dufferin Industrial, St. John's Park, Luxton, St. John's, Inkster-Faraday, Robertson, and Burrows Central. NECRC seeks to use housing renewal as a development tool for community revitalization.

Since 2000 NECRC and community partners have been working with the city on focused and strategic revitalization in the core area designated *Housing Improvement Zones* of Whyte Whyte (WW) and North Point Douglas (NPD). Together our efforts have improved housing, increased safety, improved real estate market and economic conditions, and inspired a greater sense of well-being in the Winnipeg's North End.

The work of focused and strategic renewal initiatives in Winnipeg's most challenged neighborhoods has gained momentum through the city's continued commitment to fund its 1) Housing Plans and Advocacy Program, 2) the Neighbourhood Housing Program, 3) the Minimum Home Repair Program, 4) the Development Cost Offset Program, 5) and the Downtown Housing Program.

We attribute the beginnings of true renewal in Winnipeg's North End to fundamental investments like the City of Winnipeg's commitment to contribute of $250,000 per year over five years to initiatives identified by the

communities of WW and NPD in their housing plans. In the past few years funding for the rehabilitation of affordable housing program was made possible through the *Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve*(HRIR) administered by *Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative* (WHHI). Much depends upon the City's continued funding of these housing programs.

City funding has helped make WHHI's tri-partite initiative a nationally recognized strategy for inner city renewal. With your assistance the neighborhood housing plans of William Whyte (2002-2007) and North Point Douglas (2003-2008) are meeting their goals. City funding is leveraged to gain the support of the province and federal government. At the mid-point of initiating the neighborhood housing plans NECRC and housing renewal partners feel the cities' support is critical to momentum for continued neighborhood renewal in Winnipeg's North End.

The city's contribution to this initiative has supported: 1) in-fill housing on vacant lots, 2) emergency critical home repairs, 3) the community housing coordination position, 4) the extremely popular exterior renovation program, 5) rehabilitation of aboriginal housing and 6) the creation of the pilot project to implement the North End Tenant Landlord Corporation in NPD and WW destined to be active in other North End neighborhoods.

NECRC strongly urges city of Winnipeg to continue its commitment to housing renewal in the North End and the designated Housing Improvement Zones. We are only half way through the strategic housing renewal initiative outlined in the WW and NPD housing plans and mandated by the community members of the inner city.

At NECRC we remain dedicated to the combined effort of the city, province and federal government for housing renewal in the North End. These efforts are making a difference in Winnipeg's core neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Nanette McKay
Executive Director
204-927-2333
nanette@necrc.org

Robert Neufeld
Housing Development Director
204-927-2335
rob@necrc.org

Cc Councilor Mike Pagtakhan – Point Douglas Ward
Councilor Harry Lazarenko – Mynarski Ward
Councilor Mike O'Shaunessy – Old Kildonan Ward
William Whyte Housing Network
North Point Douglas Housing Network
Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Division