



April 12, 2003

# News Release

## Three levels of government partner on unique housing conference

Over 100 representatives from across Manitoba will meet on April 12, the first time officials from the three levels of government have organized a joint housing conference, in Manitoba. The event, at the Winnipeg Convention Centre, will be opened by Stuart Briese, President of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities; the Honourable Drew Caldwell, Manitoba Minister of Family Services and Housing and Minister Responsible for the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation; and Elizabeth Huculak, General Manager of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) Prairie, Nunavut and Northwest Territories Region.

The Association of Manitoba Municipalities, the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation and CMHC have partnered to organize a one-day housing conference for government and municipal stakeholders. The conference will identify housing challenges in the areas of affordable housing, and housing for seniors and people with disabilities.

"This event is particularly important because of the federal and provincial government's commitment in the 2003 – 2004 budget for new funding for housing. Participants to this event will ensure that Manitoba's portion of these funds are distributed as equitably and appropriately across Manitoba as possible," said Stuart Briese, AMM President.

"This represents a great opportunity for all three levels of government to share additional ideas as to how to implement new programs, such as the Canada-Manitoba Affordable Housing Initiative," said Minister Caldwell. "We look forward to continuing to work closely with the AMM and CMHC on this key initiative that will increase affordable housing in Manitoba."

"As a partner in the Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI), an approximately \$50 million, five-year joint venture of the federal and Manitoba governments, CMHC is proud to sponsor this conference," said Elizabeth Huculak, CMHC General Manager. "The conference will provide an important venue for participants to forge partnerships and share best practices. It will help all levels of government make the best use of available funding such that they can meet the housing needs of Manitoba communities."

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