



**For Immediate Release**

**Federal Reaching Home program funds All Nations Hope Network to open Awasiw - The Warming Place overnight to Regina homeless starting December 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Regina, Saskatchewan, November 30, 2022** - Namerind Housing Corporation as Regina's Community Entity (CE) for administering the Government of Canada's Reaching Home funding, in collaboration with the Regina Homelessness Community Advisory Board (RH CAB), has expanded its Contribution Agreement with All Nations Hope Network (ANHN) to enable the organization to increase the opening hours of Awasiw – The Warming Place so that homeless individuals in Regina will have a safe place to warm up during the winter months. Beginning December 1<sup>st</sup> Awasiw, located at 2735 5th Ave., will extend its hours from the current 9 am to 5 pm to include overnight access from 9 pm to 7 am.

“Through Reaching Home, the Government of Canada is committed to supporting Canadians who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. As winter approaches in the Prairies, we recognize the importance of providing safe, inclusive and reliable options to those in need of assistance in Regina. By supporting All Nations Hope Network, Indigenous people who are experiencing housing difficulties will be able to access life-saving warm spaces during the day and through cold winter nights,” said the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion.

“Dec 1 is National Indigenous AIDS Day across the land called Canada with the theme being *One Vision, Many Paths*”, said All Nation's Hope Network's Director of Finance and Research, Margaret Kisikaw Piyesis. “Providing a warming shelter to the Indigenous community of Regina coincides with the one vision we speak of, which is truth telling which entails the problem with homelessness in Regina with Indigenous people. ANHN is delighted to be able to provide additional services for the community. This initiative funded through Reaching Home is one of the many paths ANHN is taking to take care of the people.”

“The Regina Homelessness Community Advisory Board (RH CAB) is thrilled that funding could be made available to offer a Warming Place this winter, especially with the severe shortage in shelter beds and the extremely limited permanent housing options for homeless individuals and families we're dealing with in our community,” said Bernadette Friedmann-Conrad, Manager of Regina's Reaching Home Community Entity (CE). “Over the past months, the RH CAB, the CE and frontline organizations have worked extremely hard to add 48 Intensive Case Management and 6 Permanent Supportive Housing program spaces to Regina's homeless serving sector. Thankfully, enough funding remained available for the RH CAB to also be able to support ANHN in

the provision of this most basic need – a chance to stay alive, a safe place to get welcomed into out of the deadly winter cold.”

“The additional funding to extend Awasiw’s opening hours builds on our existing Contribution Agreement with All Nations Hope Network which enabled the organization to create a designated Housing & Supports Program and to continue to run Awasiw during regular working hours since April,” added Friedmann-Conrad.

In all, Reaching Home, the federal government’s homelessness strategy, currently funds 13 organizations in Regina to deliver housing placement and client support services to homeless and at-risk individuals and families in our community.

“While the situation is dire with the number of individuals needing assistance and those unsheltered / rough sleeping continuously increasing in Regina, it’s also important to acknowledge that there is an incredible amount of ongoing work occurring in our community to place, stabilize, and help individuals experiencing homelessness remain housed in a variety of temporary, transitional and permanent living situations. The frontline organizations that have been working tirelessly to assist this population don’t receive due acknowledgement, but without their work the situation would be much worse than it currently is,” said Friedmann-Conrad. “Last year alone, Reaching Home-funded Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations housed over 500 individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Regina and provided stabilization services to many more.”

The federal government has for many years, under the current Reaching Home program as well as through its predecessor the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, provided funding to communities like Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert to reduce homelessness. Over the past three years, the Government of Canada’s annual investment in Regina for the Reaching Home program alone has doubled to close to \$5 million in funding.

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