

OAHS Announces Over \$20.4 Million in Funding

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

October 19, 2009

For Immediate Release.

Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) is pleased to announce \$20.4 million in funding to deliver 144 units under the First Nation, Inuit, Métis Urban & Rural Housing (FIMUR) Rental Component Program.

The goal of the FIMUR Program is to help address housing needs for Aboriginal people in Ontario living off-reserve, designed and delivered based on community engagement processes. Don McBain, Executive Director of OAHS comments, "This announcement provides great opportunity for the eight experienced urban Aboriginal housing providers to reduce current waiting lists for applicants over the long term while stimulating the economy in their respective communities through new construction and building rehabilitation."

Proponent submissions were evaluated by an independent Proposal Review Committee who reported their recommendations to the OAHS Board of Directors for final review and approval. The Board has approved the following proposals:

➤ Neech-ke-When Homes Inc., Sault Ste. Marie	16 units	\$2,160,000
➤ Oonuhseh Niagara Native Homes Inc., St. Catharines	8 units	\$1,360,000
➤ At^lohsa Native Family Healing Services Inc., London	12 units	\$1,406,900
➤ Native Inter-Tribal Housing Co-operative Inc., London	29 units	\$3,480,000
➤ Hotinohsioni Incorporated, Brantford	27 units	\$3,970,440
➤ Gignul Non Profit Housing Corporation, Ottawa	28 units	\$4,752,958
➤ Can-Am Urban Native Non-Profit Homes Inc., Windsor	12 units	\$1,500,425
➤ Tungasuvvingat Inuit, Ottawa	12 units	\$1,780,000

About the FIMUR Housing Program:

The FIMUR Housing Program has two (2) components:

The Rental Housing component (approximately \$51M for approximately 360 units) is a one-time capital program that includes new construction, acquisition of existing vacant residential or non-residential buildings for repair or conversion to affordable rental housing, and new supportive and transitional housing.

The Homeownership Assistance component (approximately \$6M for approximately 200 households) is a forgivable loan which provides down-payment assistance to families, who are currently renting, and would like to purchase a home or homeowners who are no longer entitled to reside in their residence. The loans are interest free and forgivable after five years if the homeowner remains in the home.

Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) has been allocated \$60M for outside of the GTA.

Funding is 100% capital and flowed from a federally funded Off-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Trust, of which Ontario received \$80M.

About Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS):

OAHS is a Corporation without share capital that is mandated to:

- provide housing and repair programs with a specific focus on the Aboriginal community, to be delivered cost-effectively;
- provide central policy/program administration and develop training for Aboriginal Housing provider groups;
- undertake responsibility for matters related to socially assisted, culturally appropriate off-reserve housing; and
- utilize the talent, skills and experience of the Aboriginal community to the greatest extent possible in the allocation, delivery, construction and long term management of programs.

The OAHS Board is comprised of representatives appointed by Métis Nation of Ontario, Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, and Ontario Native Women's Association.

"Providing safe affordable housing is our mandate. Creating homes is our goal."

For more information on OAHS or the FIMUR Program, including both Homeownership and Rental Components, please visit us online at <http://www.OntarioAboriginalHousing.ca>, call 1-866-391-1061, or write to:

**Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services
Attn: FIMUR Assisted Homeownership Program
500 Bay Street, Suite 200 Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 1X5**

Media Contact: Don McBain, Executive Director
Tel: (705) 256-1876 ext 202
E-mail: dmc Bain@oahssc.ca

Program Contact: Justin Marchand, Programs Delivery Manager
Tel: (705) 256-1876 ext 213
E-mail: jmarchand@oahssc.ca