

# **MANITOBA LOTTERIES - HABITAT FOR HUMANITY “LEGACY BUILD” ANNOUNCEMENT Backgrounder**

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Manitoba Lotteries Corporation (MLC) has entered into a significant partnership with one of Manitoba's most respected charitable organizations – Habitat for Humanity (HFH). MLC has already partnered with HFH in the past, having built two homes in the city of Winnipeg.

On August 12, 2008, the Manitoba Lotteries Habitat for Humanity Legacy Build was announced at the site of the HFH Winnipeg Minto Street Build. The Legacy Build program significantly increases the amount of funding being made available for the building of HFH homes across Manitoba. The Legacy Build provides up to \$5 million in funding to the six HFH communities. This amount includes \$2.5 million from MLC which will jumpstart matched contributions from other private donors. Five of the homes at the HFH Winnipeg Minto Street Build represent the first project approved under the Legacy Build program.

## **Winnipeg**

In Winnipeg, the proposed support will almost double HFH Winnipeg's building capacity for 2008, from an expected six homes to eleven. These homes are already under construction.

Based on a successful first year, subsequent years of MLC matched funding and reinvestment of incoming mortgage payments, will create a self-sustaining fund. This fund will triple HFH Winnipeg's building capacity up to 2012, and it is hoped, will support the build of 25 new homes during what is the HFH Winnipeg's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Winnipeg is also home to Chez Soi, a HFH Chapter that works to provide housing for Winnipeg's French community. Chez Soi has built three homes in St. Boniface.

## **Brandon**

The HFH Chapter in Brandon is a robust group of committed volunteers that together have built more homes per capita than any community of similar size across Canada. HFH Brandon began by building traditional infill homes on various plots in the city, but with ingenuity and hard work, went on to create its own HFH subdivision of charming, well cared for homes. The Brandon group has engaged in road works and infrastructure development to expand the area.

In addition, HFH Brandon is on the cusp of undertaking a unique building strategy for Manitoba Chapters or affiliates. The Chapter is a co-purchaser of a downtown Brandon high rise, and will use funds from the MLC/HFH Legacy Build to create the first Habitat for Humanity condo project in the province.

**Selkirk**

HFH Selkirk is currently building a home in the community, having received both significant funding and volunteer support in recent months. This home will be its third build, supported by an all-volunteer staff. HFH Selkirk has received tremendous support from the civic government, and from hundreds of volunteers. Unique to Selkirk, the group holds an in-home concert series of chamber music as one of its several fundraising efforts.

HFH Selkirk is already brainstorming on its ability to increase the amount, with assistance from the MLC/HFH Legacy Build.

**South East**

The South East affiliate of Habitat for Humanity has received significant community support, particularly through gifts in kind. From building supplies to building design, HFH South East has been very busy, having built nine homes in the past five years.

**Portage la Prairie**

The HFH Portage la Prairie Chapter is hard at work building their second new home for a deserving family in the city this summer. The build has the support of the many neighbors along the street, who have stopped by over the course of the construction phase.

The Portage la Prairie Chapter hopes to be able to build a new Habitat home every second year.

**The Pas**

The Pas is Manitoba's youngest Habitat for Humanity chapter and has built one home to date. The group has solid community support, including from the students of the Northern College campus. Students of carpentry, electrical and law enforcement classes were enthused on site volunteers of the first build.

HFH The Pas is working on building again within the next year or two, with the assistance of the MLC/HFH Legacy Build.

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **MANITOBA LOTTERIES HABITAT FOR HUMANITY “LEGACY BUILD” PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE UP TO \$5 MILLION IN FUNDING**

**August 12, 2008 Winnipeg** – Manitoba Lotteries Corporation (MLC) today announced a unique fund that will provide up to \$5 million in assistance to all Habitat for Humanity (HFH) communities in Manitoba. The fund will enable the construction of homes for low income families over the next several years. MLC is providing \$2.5 million and other community organizations will match that support through the **Legacy Build’s** application process.

The Program was announced today at the site of the HFH Winnipeg Minto Street Build. Five homes from that Build represent the first project to be approved under the **Legacy Build** program.

“The **Manitoba Lotteries Habitat for Humanity Legacy Build** offers hope to families and an opportunity to the Habitat communities,” said Minto MLA and Minister for Competitiveness, Training and Trade Andrew Swan, who is also Minister responsible for the MLC. “We offer the **Legacy Build** as the blueprint of our continued support to this special organization. Together, we will work towards providing affordable housing to even more Manitobans.”

“To see the potential of the **Legacy Build**, we should look back at the success of Habitat for Humanity in Manitoba to date,” said Gord Mackintosh, Minister of Family Services and Housing. “Since HFH came to Manitoba in 1987, over 175 Manitoba families have benefited. We look forward to building on that legacy. We are also supporting the Minto Build and a home on Elgin Avenue, by providing \$140,000 in capital funding for the construction of these homes through HOMEWorks! Homeownership program.”

Through an application process, all Habitat Chapters or affiliates in Manitoba – Winnipeg (which includes Chez Soi), Brandon, Portage la Prairie, South East, Selkirk and The Pas – will be able to apply for funding for their building programs. To promote total community support, as part of the application process, the Habitat communities will seek matching donors, either through monetary or gift in kind support. The MLC program begins immediately, allowing HFH groups to take advantage of it for the 2008 building season. The support from MLC, matching donors and future mortgage payments will create a self-sustaining fund, with the aim of supporting the building of homes for decades.

“The **Legacy Build** is truly a visionary partnership. The unprecedented support from Manitoba Lotteries and the matching donors that are sure to follow, will build a future for more Manitoba families than ever before,” said HFH Winnipeg Chair, Janet Milne. “We will build not just homes, but a stronger community for us all.” The **Legacy Build** fund is the largest amount of money that an organization has ever provided to HFH Manitoba.

A five year partnership between MLC and HFH will culminate in an important anniversary celebration in 2012 – its 25<sup>th</sup> year of opening the door to home ownership for those Manitobans who otherwise may not have had the opportunity to become homeowners.

Attachment: Backgrounder

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***Habitat for Humanity Manitoba***

*Habitat for Humanity Manitoba is made up of local affiliates and chapters of an international non-profit organization dedicating to eliminating poverty housing and to making decent housing a matter of conscience. In Winnipeg, HFH has partnered with local business, faith groups and thousands of dedicated volunteers since 1987. Brandon, Selkirk, Portage la Prairie, South East and The Pas are also HFH communities.*

***Manitoba Lotteries Corporation***

*Manitoba Lotteries is responsible for the management and operation of Club Regent and McPhillips Street Station Casinos, the Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) network, sales and distribution of Lottery products, Bingo paper and Breakopen tickets. Revenue generated from gaming have a direct and positive impact on Manitobans with net revenue allocated towards priority government programs in health care, education, social and community services.*