

## Appendix II

# Canada's New Government Takes Action to End Violence Against First Nations Women

2-2899

CORNER BROOK, NFLD. (June 22, 2007) - Canada's New Government is helping First Nations communities address the critical need for family violence prevention programs and services on reserve through a five-year investment of almost \$56 million.

The announcement was made today at the National Aboriginal Women's Summit by the Honourable Bev Oda, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women, on behalf of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, Jim Prentice and Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Canada and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Monte Solberg. Brenda Combs, Chairperson of the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence, joined Minister Oda to make this announcement. "Our government is deeply concerned about discrimination and violence against First Nations women. Today I am pleased to announce the extension of the mandate for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's (INAC) Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) until 2012," said Minister Oda. "This new funding will help the 35 existing shelters and go towards construction of up to five shelters," Minister Oda said. "These funds are over and above the \$6 million that was announced in October 2006 as a one-time allocation to the Family Violence Prevention Program to assist with immediate shelter needs."

The current Family Violence Prevention Program supports a network of 35 shelters serving approximately 265 First Nations communities. The total budget is \$18.5 million per year, \$11.5 million of which goes to operational funding and \$7 million is used for approximately 350 community-based prevention projects.

The breakdown of the new investment includes: \$53.45 million will go directly towards operational costs of existing shelters to provide protection and prevention services that meet the needs of women, children and families ordinarily resident on-reserve. A total of \$2.2 million will go to support the construction of up to five new shelters through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Shelter Enhancement Program which currently provides \$1 million annually for construction, acquisition, repair, rehabilitation and improvement of on-reserve shelters.

"Support for new and existing shelters delivers on a key government commitment and is a tangible example of action by Canada's New Government to support First Nations women and children," said Minister Oda.

INAC will continue to work with First Nations partners such as the National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence, and provincial and federal governments to enhance culturally relevant prevention programming, implement the funding formula for shelter operations, and work toward improved service delivery standards, human resource strategies and training plans for shelters.

"The National Aboriginal Circle Against Family Violence (NACAFV) is proud to be part of this announcement today. We worked with INAC and others to create an awareness of the need for investments that will improve the Family Violence Prevention Program," said Brenda Combs, Chair of

NACAFV. "As an executive director of a shelter myself, I know the investment is one that is long over due and so essential to enabling us to assist women and their children during crises situations - when they have no where else to turn."

Along with the enhancements to INAC's Family Violence Prevention Programs, Minister Oda said, "INAC is also taking action to address the important issue of Matrimonial Real Property on reserve and repeal of Section 67 of the Canadian Human Rights Act, which will ensure that First Nations women have the same rights as other women in Canada."

Backgrounder - Family Violence Prevention/Shelter Enhancement Programs

For further information please contact:

Minister's Office  
Deirdra McCracken  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Honourable Jim Prentice  
819-997-0002      819-997-0002

Kirsten Scheel  
Media Relations  
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp  
613-748-4632      613-748-4632