

Hamilton Executive Directors' Aboriginal Coalition
HEDAC

The Hamilton
Aboriginal Community

Presents their

“Homelessness”
Community Plan

for

2003-2006

Human Resources Skills Development Canada
HRSDC

Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle
ALFDC

Native Home Providers in Ontario
NHPO

September 2003

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Executive Summary

The Hamilton Aboriginal Community is pleased to forward our Community Plan on Aboriginal Homelessness. The Community Plan is a grassroots approach to addressing the needs of the Aboriginal homeless population utilizing a continuum of supports, community-based interventions and enhanced partnerships. The Plan is a Wholistic Long Term Strategy Community Plan to address all Aboriginal Issues within the City of Hamilton. ***The National Homelessness Initiative Urban Aboriginal Homelessness Program may not be eligible to fund all of the desires of the Community of Hamilton.*** The Work Plan (“Schedule B”) will identify specific Urban Aboriginal Homelessness Eligible Objectives.

The Community Plan identifies programming and service gaps, community objectives, priorities and proposed activities to meet the needs of the urban Aboriginal population. The population is estimated at Twelve Thousand (12,000) by the Hamilton Executive Directors’ Aboriginal Coalition (“HEDAC”).

Our Community Plan involves a cross-section of Aboriginal specific and youth-based organizations. The Organizations are responsible for local development and implementation of the Community Plan.

The proposed delivery model is a Community Entity Model. The Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle (“ALFDC”) serves as the organization receiving Urban Aboriginal Homelessness funding from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (“HRSDC”). The ALFDC has ensured local community planning has been accomplished.

Native Home Providers in Ontario (“NHPO”) is the Local Delivery Mechanism, operating under a contract with the ALFDC. NHPO, under the direction of the Aboriginal Homelessness Allocations Committee (“AHAC”), is responsible to facilitate request the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. NHPO will assess and evaluate proposals and determine the financial allocation for community sponsors.

NHPO and HEDAC are the groups empowered to market the Community Plan. We will market the Community Plan to the following groups:

1. Aboriginal Agencies;
2. Aboriginal Homeless Population;
3. the City of Hamilton;
4. HRSDC Officials; and
5. Related Service Agencies.

The Community Plan for the Hamilton Aboriginal Community is an evolving document that attempts to respond to the needs of the homelessness population with realistic solutions, practical programs and community-based interventions.

Acknowledgments

The Hamilton Aboriginal Community Homelessness Plan represents the collaborative efforts of Sixteen (16) Aboriginal Service Delivery Agencies providing a continuum of supports, programs and services to the Aboriginal homeless population in the City of Hamilton.

Hamilton Executive Directors' Aboriginal Coalition would like to acknowledge the individuals who have devoted time and effort to implementing programs and services for our people. Your tireless contributions have not gone unnoticed. Thank you for taking time from your work to participate in this planning session.

On behalf of Native Home Providers in Ontario, Hamilton Executive Directors' Aboriginal Coalition and the Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle we thank our main partner and project sponsor, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada for allowing us to administer the Urban Aboriginal Homelessness Program.

We look forward a mutual rewarding relationship with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada for the next three years.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Homelessness remains a National Priority. The National Homelessness Initiative (“NHI”) will work with communities to develop the tools to plan and implement local strategies to reduce homelessness.

Through the NHI, the Government of Canada will provide funding over Three (3) Fiscal Years from 2003 to 2006 to help reduce Homelessness. The NHI includes:

1. Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (“SCPI”);
2. Urban Aboriginal Homelessness (“UAH”);
3. Regional Homelessness Fund (“RHF”);
4. Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (“HIFIS”);and
5. Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative (“SFRPHI”).

In the latest Federal Budget, the Government of Canada announced it would invest Four Hundred Five Million Dollars (\$405,000,000.00) over Three (3) Years.

National budget allocations for the Urban Aboriginal Homelessness Program are Forty Five Million Dollars (\$45,000,000.00).

The Specific objectives of the NHI are:

1. To develop a continuum of supports to help homeless Canadians move out of the cycle of homelessness and prevent others from falling into homelessness by providing communities with the tools to develop a range of interventions to stabilize the living arrangement of individuals and families.
2. To ensure sustainable capacity of communities to address homelessness by enhancing community leadership and broadening public ownership, by the public, non-profit and private sectors.

1.2 Goals of the Community Plan

To be eligible for funding under the Urban Aboriginal Homelessness Program (“UAH”), communities must re-assess their original plans and update their Community Plan based on today’s current situation.

The revised Community Plan must include nine elements:

1. Geographic Area;
2. Community Plan Development and Implementation Process;
3. Objectives;
4. Sustainability;
5. Communication Strategy;
6. Assets and Gaps;
7. Priorities;
8. Community Contribution; and
9. Evaluation Strategy.

Goals

The Goal of this Community Plan is to provide a means to continue to assess the needs, services provided and gaps in services to those near or absolute homeless. We must ensure that relevant programs and services are continued to realistically meet the needs of those who require them.

Another goal is to ensure a continuum of complementary supports and services are implemented in the Hamilton Aboriginal Community to assist in alleviating homelessness.

The Community Plan also provides a means by which local agencies can plan and organize programs and services that will meet the needs of those actually homeless and the relevant homeless populations.

2.0 Geographic Area

2.1 Community Name

The Community Plan will make an effort to service the needs of the Aboriginal Community, located within the boundary identified below known as the **New City of Hamilton**. Map of the City of Hamilton attached as Appendix 1.

2.2 Geographic Boundaries

The Geographic Boundaries have not changed from the original community plan. The core of our services and programs are provided in **The New City of Hamilton**.

2.3 Cities, Communities & Municipalities

The cities and towns in the area include:

1. Stoney Creek;
2. Flamborough;
3. Glanbrook;
4. Ancaster;
5. Dundas;
6. Waterdown (Aldershot); and
7. Extending Southeast almost to Binbrook.

2.4 Total Community Population

The Total Aboriginal Population in the City of Hamilton is estimated at Twelve Thousand (12,000). The Aboriginal Population is only Two Percent (2%) of the overall population. However, approximately Twenty Percent (20%) of individuals susceptible to homelessness are identified as Aboriginal (SPRC: Progress Report on Homelessness 2003; "The Homelessness Trail" 2001).

3.0 Community Plan: Development & Implementation

3.1 Organizational Involvement

The following table identifies the organization, individual, position and type of agency involved in updating the Community Plan.

Name of Individual	Organization	Type of Agency/Represent
Cathy Staats	Hamilton Regional Indian Centre	Community service
Janice Lewis	Urban Native Homes Inc.	Non-profit housing
Shawn Henry	Native Indian/Inuit Photographers' Association	Support multi-disciplinary contemporary arts
Bruce Peterkin	De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre	Aboriginal Health Centre
Linda Ense	Native Women's Centre	Emergency shelter for women & children
Melanie McAulay	Sacajawea Non-Profit Housing Inc.	Housing for single Native women
Penny Bomberry	Tikon Property Maintenance Inc.	Property service company – private sector
Taunya Laslo	Niwasa Head Start	Wholistic pre-school provider
Bob Crawford	Guiding Hand Inc.	Native foster care support & services
Judi Trott	Metis Nation of Ontario Training Initiative	Education & employment
Buddy Martin	Metis Nation of Ontario – Hamilton-Wentworth	Community service to Metis Nation
Elize Hartley	Metis Women's Circle	Services for poverty

McMaster First Nation's Students Association, McMaster Indigenous Studies Program, and Mohawk College Aboriginal Student Services have representation on HEDAC. However, no one participated at the community forum. The McMaster Indigenous Studies Program, McMaster School of Social Work and the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre partnered with Bonnie M. Freeman and prepared the "**Listening to our People**" document. It is a comprehensive Hamilton Aboriginal Homelessness Evaluation.

The Native Home Providers in Ontario ("NHPO") serves as the Local Delivery Mechanism for the community. The NHPO coordinated the community forum and related evaluation studies of the homelessness activities implemented in the area. NHPO and AHAC facilitate the Request for Proposal ("RFP") Process for the Urban Aboriginal Homelessness Allocation.

3.2 Role in Plan Development

The following table illustrates the organization, the role they play in plan development and the extent of their involvement in community.

Organization	Role in Plan Development	Extent of their Involvement
Native Home Providers in Ontario (NHPO)	Local Delivery Mechanism	Facilitates Request for Proposal (RFP) process
De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre	Needs analysis, health advocacy, program development	Support facility and service
Urban Native Homes Inc.	Landlord Tenancy Rights, Outreach Workers	Support service and advocacy
McMaster Indigenous Studies Program	Research and Analysis of Homelessness Issues	Advocacy and Planning; Publications
Metis Nation of Ontario Training Initiative	Plan, and implement training initiatives	Homeless support service
Hamilton Regional Indian Centre (HRIC)	Administer emergency funds in community	Support service for individuals in winter
McMaster Indigenous Studies Program & HRIC	Needs analysis, planning and implementation	Support facility and service
Native Women's Centre	Program and services – outreach, education, etc.	Community support facility and service
Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle	Coordinator; program administrator for UAH	Community Entity for UAH programming
Native Indian & Inuit Photographers Assoc.	Outreach, HOM video production	Promotion of community events, public education & awareness
HEDAC	Support infrastructure	Coordinating body
Private companies not identified	Needs & Solutions	Private sector

In total between the dates of April 1, 2003 & December 31, 2003 there were Twenty-Nine (29) meetings to include HEDAC, HAHA, and the Hamilton Aboriginal Community.

On Average, Seventy-Five to One Hundred Twenty (75-120) people attended the Community Forum. Focus groups were held with the Elders of the Community. Information was transferred to the Hamilton Aboriginal Community through Organizational Newsletters.

3.3 Youth Serving Organizations

The following table lists Organizations serving Youth, identifies their role in plan development and the extent of their involvement.

Organization	Role in Plan Development	Extent of their Involvement
De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre	Develop youth based initiatives	Facilitate partnerships with mainstream groups – Living Rock and Good Shepherd Centre
Hamilton Regional Indian Centre	Plan and organize youth programs & services	Deliver homelessness initiative – emergency funds – youth
HEDAC/Sir John A. MacDonald High School	Stay in School Initiative (SISI) “Nya Weh”	Youth support, Educational aspirations Programs & services

The Aboriginal service delivery network consists of a cross-section of native and non-native programs and services. Extensive referrals and outreach is occurring on a daily basis to service the needs of youth in the community.

Youth Representatives attended the Community Forum in Fall 2003.

Focus groups were held with Youth Groups to provide an opportunity to provide input into the Community Plan.

3.4 Proposed Delivery Model

The Hamilton Aboriginal Community desires to use a Community Entity Model. The ALFDC is the designated Community Entity who will enter into an Agreement with HRSDC.

The Hamilton Aboriginal Community is Responsible for the Creation of the Community Plan.

The ALFDC is Responsible for Ensuring that the UAH Community Plan is implemented. The ALFDC will ensure Transparent and Inclusive Decision-Making Processes with Community Partners. The ALFDC will maintain On-Going Consultation with Hamilton Aboriginal Community.

The ALFDC will Establish a Transparent Process to Implement the Hamilton UAH Community Plan. The Procedure will incorporate On-Going Community Involvement with Decision-Making Processes.

The Process will include the Co-operation of HEDAC and AHAC. HEDAC will have Final Approval of Proposal Recommendations Received from AHAC who are advised by the Native Home Providers in Ontario (“NHPO”).

The ALFDC will Ensure that All Proposals Recommended for Approval Meet the NHI and Hamilton Aboriginal Homelessness Community Priorities and Objectives. Most importantly, the ALFDC will ensure the Proposals are Activities Eligible for Funding under the NHI.

The ALFDC will Ensure that the Implementation Process allows the Hamilton Aboriginal Community the Opportunity to Provide On-Going Input into the changing priorities or the Expanding, Evolving and Living Document known as the Hamilton UAH Community Plan. The ALFDC will further ensure broad community consultation in the Annual Review and Update of the Hamilton UAH Community Plan.

The ALFDC will ensure an Annual Community Forum. The Forum will provide an opportunity for the Community to Evaluate the Homelessness Program. The Community will also provide input into future Priorities and Requirements.

NHPO continues as the UAH Program Administrator for the City of Hamilton. NHPO in conjunction with the Aboriginal Homelessness Allocations Committee (“AHAC”) will facilitate the Request for Proposal (“RFP”) Process in the City of Hamilton.

NHPO is the Local Delivery Mechanism (“LDM”) on behalf of the Hamilton Executive Directors’ Aboriginal Coalition (“HEDAC”). NHPO will enter into the following Two (2) Agreements:

1. An Operating Contract between NHPO and the ALFDC, confirming NHPO as the LDM for the Hamilton Community; and
2. A Memorandum of Understanding between NHPO and HEDAC confirming NHPO as the Program Administrator.

The Aboriginal community informed the City of Hamilton’s Community Advisory Board that they need a separate Aboriginal allocation. The Aboriginal Community maintains the One-in-Five Principle. As stated earlier, Twenty Percent (20%) of the Homeless Population of Hamilton is Aboriginal. Therefore, the Hamilton Aboriginal Community demands that Twenty Percent (20%) of the Homelessness Funding Allocation for the City of Hamilton must be directed to address Aboriginal Homelessness in Hamilton. The request was also reflected as Recommendation W in the 2003 Progress Report on Homelessness presented by the Social Planning and Research Council.

3.5 Organizational Chart

The Organizational Chart clearly defines the following:

1. Roles and Responsibilities;
2. Lines of Authority;
3. Identifies Staff; and
4. The Application Review Process.

The Organizational Chart is attached as Appendix 2.

3.6 Approving & Recommending Projects

The Approval and Recommendation Process for UAH projects is the responsibility of HEDAC. Specifically, AHAC recommends UAH projects to be funded. HEDAC provides Final Approval of all Projects. Finally, NHPO is responsible for contract administration with the Project Sponsors. The Approval Process Schematic is attached as Appendix 3.

3.7 Organizations Involved in Implementation

The table below illustrates the Aboriginal organizations that are involved in the implementation of the community plan, their specific role and name of authorizing officer:

Name of Individual	Organization Represented	Anticipated Role in Implementation
Ralph Summers and NHPO Board of Directors	NHPO	Provides technical advise to AHAC Contract with ALFDC; Project management, Fiscal & Projects Monitoring, Disbursements
Committee Membership	HEDAC	Proposal Review & Decision Makers for Allocation of Funding
Committee Membership	Aboriginal Homelessness Allocations Committee (AHAC)	Proposal Review for Community Projects
Lance Triskle ALFDC Board of Directors	ALFDC	Contract with HRSDC; Manage UAH Program; Monthly Reports & Financial Monitoring; Ensure Community Plan is Completed
Front-line staff/ Administrators	Community Organizations	Assess Needs, Design Proposals, Case Management, Evaluation of Programs & Services

3.8 Youth Organizations Involved In Implementation

The following youth organizations are involved in the implementation of the Community Plan:

1. De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre;
2. Hamilton Regional Indian Centre;
3. Stay in School Initiative Program –Sir John A. MacDonald High School;
and
4. Student Associations' of Mohawk College & McMaster University

3.9 Role in Community

The Role of the Youth Organizations is to ensure adequate accessibility to programs and services benefiting the Aboriginal youth population. The organizations develop community-based initiatives including:

1. Family and Youth Healing;
2. Drop-In Services;
3. Recreational Programming;
4. Summer Camps;
5. Shelter Programs for Youth Over the Age of Sixteen (16);
6. Life Skills; and
7. Counseling Services.

The Community Organizations develop proposals based on existing and future needs. The Organizations provide project submissions to HEDAC for consideration.

4.0 Objectives

After assessing accomplishments during Phase I of the Urban Aboriginal Homelessness Program and examining gaps in the community, we established the following objectives.

4.1 Preface

The Objectives are Long-Term in nature and identify achievement expectations of the Hamilton Aboriginal Community by March 31, 2006. Once again, the NHI objectives are:

1. To develop a comprehensive continuum of supports to help homeless Canadians move out of the cycle of homelessness and prevent those at-risk from falling into homelessness by providing communities with the tools to develop a range of interventions to stabilize the living arrangements of homeless individuals and families – encouraging self-sufficiency where possible and prevent those at risk from falling into homelessness.
2. To ensure sustainable capacity of communities to address homelessness by enhancing community leadership and broadening ownership, by the public, non-profit and private sectors, on the issue of homelessness in Canada.

4.2 Hamilton Aboriginal Community Objectives for 2003 - 2006

1. Outreach, promotion and development of community-based partnerships to build local capacity;
2. To offer a continuum of emergency related supports and services to the Aboriginal the absolute homeless and at risk population in the city of Hamilton;
3. To promote the One-in-Five (1/5) principle to the Hamilton Community Advisory Board and negotiate fair share of the 2003 - 2006 SCPI allocation. *(The Hamilton Homelessness population constitutes Twenty Percent 20% of the overall homeless population i.e. "The Homelessness Trail 2001; The SPRC Progress report 2003; therefore, additional resources are needed to meet the identified needs);*
4. To better utilize **Homelessness Programming to expose clients to** employment preparatory training, skills trades learning and labour market interventions to create sustainable employment;
5. To provide Supportive Housing and Facilities for Aboriginal Elders and Seniors facing homelessness within the City of Hamilton. **NHI UAH Funding will support Capital Projects for the Absolute Homeless Population only;**
6. To offer ongoing support and interventions for youth projects including counseling, outreach, life skills, cultural programming, skilled trades training towards self-sufficiency through self-development;
7. To increase access to and provide cultural, spiritual and traditional healing programming (i.e. Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training);
8. To offer transitional support services for Aboriginal people who are seeking to enhance their way of life;
9. To offer supportive and affordable housing for single individuals over the age of Thirty (30) in the New City of Hamilton. **NHI UAH Funding will support Capital Projects for Absolute Homeless Population only;** and
10. To research and examine the viability of operating a Native Men's Residence in the City of Hamilton.

5.0 Supports to Sustainability

5.1 Overview

The supports to sustainability are a critical element of the Community Plan. The funding for the Urban Aboriginal Homeless Program is not intended to provide financial support past March 31, 2006. Therefore, community initiatives must be sustainable past the funding period.

Partnership development and community capacity building are essential items to achieving NHI's overall objective of ensuring sustainable capacity to address homelessness.

Based on our consultation, the community organizations have identified expanding existing partnerships. Also, the community organizations will expand upon other related activities. Finally, the community organizations identified potential new partnerships.

5.2 Partnerships Strategy

The following table illustrates existing partnerships which have enhanced local development at the community and project level. Pending activities have been articulated that we anticipate will enhance partnerships. The organizations listed have a long-standing track record in the community of providing essential services and programs for the homeless population.

The organizations highlighted have shared authority and responsibility. Additionally, they share resources both human and financial. The organizations have taken the initiative themselves to implement homelessness programming at the local level. The agencies represent a few of the countless partnerships being created.

Existing Partnership	Activities that will enhance the Partnership
HEDAC – comprised of all Aboriginal and Metis community-based organizations	Evaluation of projects/programs completed & enhance community outreach with other service groups
City of Hamilton – Parks & Recreation, Culture Departments; Strengthening Hamilton Community Initiative – SHCI	Conduct culturally relevant sessions, Promote our UAH services & programs via SHCI Communications Network, being Active Members on City Boards & Committees
Local Business Community – Sobey’s, Tim Hortons, Pharma Plus, Shoppers Drug Mart, Fortinos, Loblaws Corp., etc.	Request coupons and special pricing on products of need that will best serve clients - in turn - provide advertising and recognition at events in the community
Community Information Services & HEDAC	Outreach to build and nurture relationships
Social Planning and Research Council (SPRC)	Capacity building and Promotion of community-based partnerships; Develops quantitative information; Enhancing services through qualitative community-based data.
Urban Core Community Health Centre	Partnership in Youth Initiatives

There is a need to enhance local partnerships; however, operating with limited financial resources of Three Hundred Five Thousand One Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$305,120.00) per year, it is difficult to conduct any long-term planning. Partnerships will enhance sustainable project opportunities.

Enhancing our partnerships with all levels of government is a priority. Facilitating the Urban Aboriginal Strategy and negotiating a SCPI allocation based on a percentage of Aboriginal homeless individuals and families is part of our plan.

5.3 Potential New Partnerships

We have identified in the following table, a list of potential new partners, groups and organizations who are not involved in the development of the Community Plan. We aspire to forge new relationships with other groups enhancing our strategic goals and community objectives.

The Urban Aboriginal community needs to build an “equity base” in order to kick-start and complete some of the major capital projects identified, for example advocacy with government departments such as Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

The community also needs to Unify, Communicate and Strengthen Bonds with the Six Nations of the Grand River and the Mississauga’s of the New Credit First Nation.

Potential Partners	Specific Organization/Group
Municipal Government	City Hall – SCPI Community Advisory Board, Parks, Recreation & Culture & Housing (Non-Profit)
First Nation Governments	Six Nations of the Grand River Territory and Mississauga’s of the New Credit First Nation
Unions	C.U.P.E. & Locals of Ironworkers/Masonry/Welders/ Steelworkers/Electricians, etc...
Local Federal Department	Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC)
Private Sector	Outreach is required to nurture partnerships

Private Sector Involvement

The Hamilton Aboriginal Community needs to enhance their relationships with local business. However, the Community has long term alliances with community service oriented groups for renting space for Elders and Youth Functions.

Long-term relationships with the following groups will aid in the establishment of new partnerships:

1. McMaster University;
2. Hamilton Police Services;
3. Hospitals;
4. Community Information Services; and
5. Ontario Workers Arts & Heritage.

5.4 Priority Partnerships

The partnerships we look to establish are “give and take relationships, with long-term mutual benefits for each partner.”

New Partner – Sector Development	How they can enhance the Community and address gaps?
Municipal Government – Affordable housing groups & SCPI Community Action Board	Treat as equal partner, access to percentage of SCPI allocation Aboriginal control and ownership by HEDAC
Mentorship with other Native communities – i.e. - Na-Me-Res (Toronto) – Native Men’s Residence Project	Mentor HEDAC members – start-up, sustainability and long term capital funding base; best practices, knowledge and information sharing
Unions – CUPE, Local 1006	Apprenticeship and job creation training opportunities for Aboriginal Youth
Local First Nations – Six Nations & New Credit	Negotiate percentage of band budget to off-reserve based on service delivery to members – establish base line data

5.5 Community Capacity

Community Capacity is an ongoing process that strengthens the capacity of individuals, agencies, networks and the broader community to develop a meaningful and sustainable response to homelessness.

Capacity will be a large piece in developing Partnerships with the following groups:

1. Private Sector;
2. Unions; and
3. Municipal Government Departments including:
 - a. Parks;
 - b. Recreation and Culture; and
 - c. Non-Profit Housing.

The following Chart illustrates the how the Hamilton Aboriginal Community will address Community Capacity Building.

Areas of Community Capacity Building	Identified by Whom?
Support agencies to continue to develop skills and tools to implement projects	Hamilton Aboriginal Community
Further develop partnerships with all levels of government & examine innovative funding arrangements – on-reserve to off-reserve population	Hamilton Aboriginal Community – Urban Aboriginal Strategy
Establish and build an equity base to facilitate development of homelessness capital projects	Hamilton Aboriginal Community
Capital and infrastructure development for expansion of core services	Hamilton Aboriginal Community
Offer continued support, education, training and life skills for youth projects	Hamilton Aboriginal Community

5.6 Key Areas of Initial Action

The community identified the following priorities and activities that they can action immediately to support homelessness programs, service interventions and capital projects.

Priorities	Activities
Continuum of supports for existing programs & services initiated under UAH	Support & resource development for service providers on the front-line – streets, agency support, partnerships
Ongoing support for youth interventions – counseling, outreach, cultural programs, training/education, life skills	Resource support and capital housing projects for Aboriginal youth and recreation centre
Establish Working Capital Equity Base for Homelessness Projects for Operations and Maintenance	Advocacy and Strengthen Relationships with Federal, municipal and FN Governments
Supportive housing for seniors – long term care facility;	Secure funding, grants & capital to develop and construct 100 beds

6.0 Communication Strategy

6.1 Objectives 2003 - 2006

The objectives, corresponding activities and target groups for our Communication Strategy is identified in the following table. We will create awareness of how homelessness has impacted the community as a whole.

Expansion of local media coverage will highlight the effects of Homelessness. We will also illustrate activities designed to address Homelessness in the Aboriginal community. Specifically, we will expose the Aboriginal Community to Projects available through UAH and SCPI funding. Finally, we will present our video, "On the Streets" in our Home and Native Land as a testament to the ongoing struggle with Homelessness.

The Community Plan will be distributed to various organizations providing community-based programs and services to the Aboriginal homeless population. Copies of the Community Plan will also be shared with the following Homelessness Partners:

1. City of Hamilton;
2. Municipal Representatives;
3. Municipal Committees;
4. SCPI Community Advisory Board;
5. SHCI;
6. Wesley Centre;
7. Urban Core;
8. Social Planning & Research Council;
9. Elizabeth Fry;
10. Health Services Boards;
11. Social Housing Groups;
12. Human Resources and Skills Development Canada;
13. Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

An Annual Report of the evaluation of approved and completed projects will be shared with Government and Aboriginal counterparts.

Objectives	Corresponding Activities	Target Group
Distribute RFP process to community organizations	Announce RFP, forward applications & guidelines to organizations	Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal organizations
Distribute Community Plan to community partners	Approve in principle and forward to government departments Web-site availability	City of Hamilton – SCPI CAB, MP’s, MPP’s
Negotiate a percentage of the SCPI allocation	Promotion of the SPRC Progress Report on Homelessness 2003 Recommendation “W”	Community Advisory Board
Promote Awareness of Homelessness, Causes and Remedies Aboriginal Specific	Promote the 2003 funded UAS-H, Video “On the Streets” in our Home and Native Land	City representatives and residents, Social Service Departments and front-line staff

6.2 External Communications

The Community Plan, approved projects and corresponding evaluation reports will be provided to all levels of government including Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Parliament and community partners. Federal visibility for any UAH or SCPI sponsored project will ensure HRSDC has been acknowledged in either print or advertising mediums. The Community Plan for Hamilton’s Aboriginal community will be available on the web at www.sprc.hamilton.on.ca

Finally, the ALFDC will ensure compliance with the Communications Protocol for the NHI 2003 – 2006, and as further defined in the ALFDC Agreement with HRSDC.

7.0 Assets & Gaps

7.1 City of Hamilton Community Planning Process

Ensure the City of Hamilton SCPI Community Planning Process clearly demonstrates how the community will include Aboriginal representation. Additionally, identify the actions and methodologies used to engage the Aboriginal community.

If there is a lack of engagement, we will document and ensure adequate Aboriginal Representation. Finally, we will ensure the City of Hamilton Community Plan and SCPI community allocations are reflective of the Aboriginal homeless population.

7.2 Assets, Gaps & Area of Intervention

Prior to the community planning exercise, we reviewed and analyzed a community driven evaluation report relative to the original allocation of homelessness funding and can highlight specific accomplishments.

Assets	Gaps	Areas of Intervention
HEDAC – core service providers & unity – organization	Lack of time, money & staff to complete projects	Impacts all areas – emergency, transitional, supportive & preventative
Innovative local programming & services	Lack of Hamilton community involvement with Aboriginal organizations, events and projects	Supportive and preventative impacted
People – community, various jobs, education, meetings, values, potential voting power	Lack of understanding from the Hamilton community of culture, history, beliefs & principles; do not use voting privilege	All areas
Branches of Native Development (BOND) – volunteerism	More effort to increase communication with Hamilton agencies and partnerships	Supportive
Development experience (i.e. Native Women’s shelter)	Lack of support & programming – transitional housing	Transitional
Community partnerships	Mental health services; After care for incarcerated persons.	Preventative/ Transitional: Increased research/development base required

8.0 Priorities

8.1 Community Activities, Objectives and Outcomes

The Hamilton Aboriginal Community has identified the community priorities based on a review of assets and gaps, according to realistic and measurable objectives to March 31, 2006.

The priorities reflect a continuum of supports and builds upon enhancing organizational infrastructure, expansion of programs and services and addressing sustainability beyond March 31, 2006.

The following chart illustrates the following:

1. Community Priority;
2. Proposed Activities;
3. Community Objectives; and
4. Expected Outcomes.

A notional allocation has been identified for each of the priority areas.

Community Priority	Proposed Activities	Community Objective(s)	Expected Outcomes
Negotiate the one-in-five principle with Hamilton mainstream Homelessness entity	Outreach to all levels of government, community & Aboriginal agencies	Promote the one-in-five principle	Strengthen community and promote unity
Community-based partnerships, old and new	Enhance governance & Aboriginal community infrastructure	Outreach, development & promotion of partnerships	Efficient & effective programming-empowerment and enhance quality of life
Build on the implementation plan	Service provision, programs and projects are reassessed/refined	Implement the SMART Consistent with community gaps	Cost-efficient use of data management reports for evaluation

Community Capacity building Human Resources and governance	Training, cultural awareness and bridge gaps	Community development supports and capacity building (i.e. HEDAC)	Sustainable projects, Links to Employment, Job Creation Programs and Services 20 FT Employees 3 Capital Initiatives
Seek financial resources for projects	Capital and operating resources finalized	To provide supportive housing facility for seniors	Sustainable and operating facility
Offer vouchers. Food Banks, Transportation, out of the cold programs	Coordination and community-based partnerships	Continuation of emergency related supports	Address daily needs and prevention of hypothermia
Counseling, outreach, life skills, cultural and training	HEDAC to develop conceptual plans	Ongoing support and interventions for Youth	One-Stop Multi-Youth Complex
Updated feasibility Study	Research Native Men's Residence Initiative	Research and examine viability of Men's Residence	Data collection and fact finding
Link Homelessness initiatives with development projects	Training with tangible results Jobs	Bette utilize preparatory training, skilled trades learning & Labour Market interventions	Create sustainable Jobs for Aboriginal community
Develop training packages for community agencies	Nurture community-based partnerships	Increase access to and provide cultural awareness and traditional programming	Provision of cultural awareness training

8.2 Percentage of UAH 2003-2006 Allocation

We estimate the UAH allocation to broken down accordingly:

1. Emergency - Fifty Percent (50%);
2. Transitional - Twenty-Five Percent (25%);
3. Supportive - Fifteen Percent (15%); and
4. Preventative - Ten Percent (10%).

9.0 Community's Contribution

9.1 Aboriginal, Value-in-Kind, Foundation, Provincial & Federal

The objective of the UAH is to address the needs of the homeless Aboriginal population or those at risk of becoming homeless by planning and implementing specific strategies. The UAH is intended to facilitate the development of culturally appropriate and integrated community-based programming and services to adequately address Aboriginal needs.

UAH initiatives do not require cost matching with other partners, but it is widely encouraged by all sponsors. The Hamilton Aboriginal Community recognizes we cannot possibly finance all project requests. Therefore we encourage all sponsors to seek out a variety of funding partners including the following:

1. Non-profit Aboriginal community-based organizations;
2. Non-profit non-Aboriginal community-based organizations;
3. Foundations:
 - a) Homeless;
 - b) Shelters;
 - c) Women and Children;
 - d) Youth; and
 - e) Aboriginal;
4. Federal:
 - a) Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative; and
 - b) Health Canada;
5. Provincial Funding Sources:
 - a) Ministry of Health and Long Term Care;
6. Private sector;
7. Value in Kind (VIK) – Organizations will contribute to their projects;
8. Equity Position:
 - a) Cash;
 - b) Capital:
 - i. Land;
 - ii. Building; and
 - iii. Equipment.

The total annual allocation the Hamilton Aboriginal Community can anticipate under the Urban Aboriginal Homelessness Initiative is Three Hundred Five Thousand One Hundred Twenty Dollars per Year (\$305,120.00/year).

10.0 Evaluation Strategy

10.1 Overview

The ALFDC will implement the Hamilton Community Plan and Administer the UAH Initiative in Compliance with the Evaluation Clause outlined in the Agreement with HRSDC. The ALFDC will monitor and Evaluate on the Following Work Plan Data to be submitted for Each Fiscal Year:

1. Measurable Objectives;
2. Realistic Targets;
3. Expected Results; and
4. Expected Outcomes

The Hamilton Aboriginal Community will administer the UAH Initiative in compliance with Contribution Agreement between the ALFDC and HRSDC. Therefore, we expect to be monitored and evaluated on the Work Plan Data to be achieved for each Fiscal Year.

In addition, HEDAC understands the protocol dictated under the Contribution Agreement. HEDAC is prepared to ensure that the Hamilton LDM NHPO is responsible for the following tasks:

1. Monthly Reporting;
2. Project Monitoring;
3. Monthly Reporting to HEDAC;
4. Financial Management;
5. Technical Advisor to the AHAC Committee of HEDAC;
6. Annual Community Reports; and
7. Completion of the Results-Based Reporting Templates on each project funded.

The National Homelessness Intranet Website identifies the evaluation framework as the “Results Management and Accountability Framework (“RMAF”). Targets are expressed numerically for:

1. Milestones to be Achieved for Each Fiscal Year with Specific Timelines;
2. Deliverables to be Met for Each Fiscal Year to Address Priorities; and
3. Annual Reports will be Submitted Each Fiscal Year.

10.2 Expected outcomes

We have identified long-term outcomes. We will use the attached framework for measuring long-term progress and the success of the Urban Aboriginal Homelessness Initiative in the City of Hamilton.

The Community Plan for the Hamilton Aboriginal Community is an Evolving Document that attempts to respond to the Needs of the Homelessness Population with Realistic Solutions, Practical Programs and Community-Based Interventions in a Wholistic Community Approach.

The ALFDC will be able to demonstrate success of the NHI UAH Allocation delivered under the NHI UAH 2003 – 2006.

10.3 Summary of Gaps and Estimated Numbers of Beds Required

The Hamilton Aboriginal Community has experience in administering Homelessness Funding. Using previous projects as examples, Hamilton has determined best practices in Homelessness Service Delivery.

The Native Women's Centre was a successful Four (4) Year Capital Development creating Fifteen (15) Beds. Therefore, Hamilton will reflect upon the activities and practices utilized to complete the Project.

Nevertheless, the Hamilton Aboriginal Community has suffered set backs in improving the lives of the Hamilton Aboriginal Homeless Population. The Hamilton Aboriginal Community had completed a Feasibility Study and Capital Management Plan for a Long-Term Care Facility. However, the Project was not completed due to a lack of Funding.

Likewise, the Hamilton Aboriginal Community completed a Feasibility Study for an Elders' Residence and Long-Term Care Facilities in Brantford and Hamilton. Once again the Projects were not completed due to a lack of Capital Funding.

Finally, the Hamilton Aboriginal Community estimates the following:

1. The Number of Beds;
2. Shelter Facilities;
3. Supportive Facilities;
4. Supportive services;
5. Capital Projects; and
6. The Implementation of Support Services in the Community.

Based on community discussion and deliberation, we have provided a realistic estimate of gaps and how we intend to address.

Summary of Gaps	Estimated # Required
Beds	100 – Long Term Care Facility (Feasibility Study with Base Line Data)
Shelter Facilities	15 beds – Men's Shelter
Support Facilities	50 Units with a Focus on Mental Health, FAS/FAE/FASD
Support Services (Transitional)	14 Units (with a Focus on Individuals Released from a Correctional Facility)

10.4 Time Frame

We anticipate all activity including long-term care beds, shelter and support facilities, as well as support services will be completed or have been initiated by March 31, 2006.