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MEDIA ADVISORY

March 21, 2007
For Immediate Release

Aboriginal Housing in Winnipeg: Facing the Challenges, Meeting the Needs

WINNIPEG– The Manitoba Urban Native Housing Association (MUNHA) and The University of Winnipeg’s Institute of Urban Studies are hosting two community forums on Aboriginal housing in the City of Winnipeg. The focus of the forums is to identify the needs and challenges facing Winnipeg’s Aboriginal community as it relates to housing. Areas to be explored include home-ownership, Aboriginal social housing and supportive/transitional housing.

Wednesday, March 21, 2007
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Freight House
200 Isabel – Unit 6

Thursday, March 22, 2007
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Thunderbird House
715 Main Street

“The hope is that we can reach out to all possible participants and come up with solutions to the urban Aboriginal housing crisis in Winnipeg,” said Jino Distasio, Director of the Institute of Urban Studies.

There are currently over 4,000 Aboriginal families and 16,000 Aboriginal children waiting to access Aboriginal social housing in Manitoba. Aboriginal housing providers cannot keep up with the demand for housing units. MUNHA requires more social housing units that are Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) for low-income Aboriginal families.

The MUNHA Housing Plan Project’s objective is to identify the housing needs for the MUNHA membership and the Aboriginal community in the City of Winnipeg, to identify the strategies and initiatives to address those needs and to work as full and equal participants with its partners and stakeholders.

The MUNHA Winnipeg Aboriginal Housing Plan is supported by the following government departments: Urban Aboriginal Strategy (Government of Canada), Winnipeg Homeless and Housing Initiative (Government of Canada), Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Manitoba (Province of Manitoba), and The City of Winnipeg.

The Manitoba Urban Native Housing Association is the advocacy arm to 14 non-profit Aboriginal Housing organizations that provide 1,595 Social Housing Units to the Aboriginal community in

Manitoba's urban centres.

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