



Canadian  
Federation  
of Apartment  
Associations

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## News Release

14 March 2006  
(For immediate release)

### **CFAA welcomes expansion of Manitoba's housing allowance program**

The Canadian Federation of Apartment Associations (CFAA) welcomes the expansion of Manitoba's housing allowance program, announced yesterday. Manitoba Housing Minister Melnick said, "More than three times as many individuals and families will qualify for up to \$2,400 per year to assist them with their housing costs."

The CFAA commends Manitoba for assisting low-income residents to access affordable housing in the existing private rental housing stock.

Portable housing allowances:

- use the existing economical housing stock, rather than newly built (and therefore expensive) housing;
- allow tenants to keep their housing assistance when they move to take a new job (which is very good for them and the economy);
- allow tenants to choose where to live;
- achieve income mixing without the cost of subsidizing middle income tenants; and
- allow the available funding to be spread more equitably among more low income tenants.

Given the benefits of housing allowances, both taxpayers and those who care about the poor should be very pleased with the developments of the last 12 months:

- Saskatchewan brought in a housing allowance for low-income families and people with disabilities.
- British Columbia has announced the expansion of its housing allowance program, doubling the money being invested.
- Now, Manitoba has tripled the households eligible for allowances.

John Dickie, President of CFAA, says, "All of these steps to expand the provincial housing allowance programs are very welcome. Now what we need is a national housing allowance program."

Except Canada, almost all countries with advanced economies have extensive housing allowance programs. The government of Canada should join the trend around the world, and in the provinces across Canada. See the Backgrounder "What do key organizations say about housing allowances."

For more information, or for the Manitoba news release, contact:

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*The Canadian Federation of Apartment Associations represents the owners and managers of more than one million residential rental suites in Canada, through 16 organizations across Canada.*