

For Immediate Release

July 15, 2008

Provincial Government Denies Funding to Inn from the Cold for Emergency Family Shelter

Calgary – Inn from the Cold announced Monday, July 14th that it learned the Government of Alberta has rejected their application for \$2M to complete the purchase of Centre 110, located at 110 -11 Ave S.E. and owned by the Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre, to provide shelter to the city's homeless families.

"We're incredibly disappointed that the government has chosen to turn its back on Calgary's homeless families," says the Inn's Executive Director Diana Segboer. "This is a time when there is money available to make a difference to the people who need it the most and yet this is the decision they've made."

The purchase of Calgary's first - and much-needed - emergency family shelter would have made a dramatic difference to the nomadic lives of families and in particular, the children.

"We will never turn our back on homeless children and their families," adds Segboer. She explains that because the provincial government took several months to make its decision, the Inn began preparing a "Plan B" to secure alternate sources of funding.

"We had hoped we wouldn't need to resort to Plan B but in hindsight, we're glad that we proactively began to seek out other options. Thanks to Dome Britannia Properties, we will put bridge financing in place, under standard commercial terms, to complete the transaction. Homeless families will finally have a stable, secure place where they can deal with the issues that caused their homelessness and can begin to prepare for appropriate housing," says Segboer.

The purchase will be finalized by the beginning of August and once a few minor renovations are complete, families will begin using the Shelter in just a few weeks. The Inn's volunteers will provide meals and hospitality. Centre 110 is also home to Inn from the Cold's office.

Inn from the Cold had already raised \$4 million toward the purchase of the building. The much-needed \$2M would have demonstrated the government's commitment to changing the homeless situation in Calgary. Now, the Inn will ask the Calgary community for financial support to help pay off the mortgage.

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Media Enquiries

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About Inn from the Cold – Inn from the Cold is the only place where Calgary's homeless families can go and stay together. Through its network of over 100 churches, synagogues and organizations, as well as 4000 volunteers, the Inn provides temporary emergency shelter to homeless families and others in need. It also offers a number of different programs and services to help families rebuild their lives. Inn from the Cold supports the "Housing First" philosophy and the Calgary Committee to End Homelessness' 10-Year Plan. For more information, visit www.innfromthecold.org

