



MEDIA RELEASE
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Minister Fritz and Mayor Mandel help celebrate Habitat for Humanity Edmonton's 100th home in the capital region

Edmonton, AB—The number 100 was pronounced with enthusiasm as Habitat partner families, staff, volunteers and donors—as well as Edmonton dignitaries Minister Yvonne Fritz and Mayor Stephen Mandel—celebrated the 100th home milestone for Habitat for Humanity Edmonton (HfH-E).

“I congratulate Habitat for Humanity on reaching this important milestone – this is a great day!” said Yvonne Fritz, Alberta’s Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs. “Each of these 100 homes represents a family’s dream of home ownership coming true. We are pleased to partner with Habitat for Humanity as we [Alberta] work toward creating 11,000 affordable housing units by 2012.”

HfH-E has been working hard to provide a hand up to families who would otherwise not have home ownership opportunities. Although they have been serving Edmonton families since 1991, they have built 56 of the homes in the past four years. HfH-E has led the way for Habitat affiliates across the country and is ramping up to serve an increasing number of families each year.

“Congratulations to Habitat for Humanity for the completion of their 100th project in Edmonton,” said Mayor Stephen Mandel. “I would also like to express my thanks to the countless volunteers for their hard work and dedication. The support and sweat equity put into this project, and the 99 before it, have truly helped to make Edmonton a wonderful place to call home.”

Part of the celebration included four excited families receiving keys to new homes and brighter futures. Four presenting sponsors made the families dreams possible. The Home Depot Canada has been a national sponsor of Habitat for Humanity since 1996 and provides over \$3 million in funding and product and thousands of volunteer hours each year to Habitat affiliates across the country. Daniel O’Neill, Manager of The Home Depot Strathcona store, had the honour of presenting the key of the 100th home to a deserving family.

Barry McGuire of the Real Estate Investment Network (REIN) was on hand to present the key to the family of the 101st home. REIN had set a goal to raise \$500,000 over five years for the local Habitat affiliate and is close to reaching that goal. The other two lead sponsors of the four-plex include the REALTORS® Community Foundation, who has given over \$250,000 towards HfH-E over the past two years, and Stantec, who has been a supporter of Habitat for many years. Not only have these donors been generous in funding, but their employees also volunteer on Habitat build sites.

“We are very excited about completing four more beautiful homes and reaching the 100th home milestone. HfH-E is strongly committed to having as great an impact as possible on the affordable housing issue in our community,” said Alfred Nikolai, President and CEO of HfH-E. “But we know that we could not reach this milestone or future milestones without the continued support of our donors and the dedication of our volunteers.”

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