



April 24, 2009

## **Province invests in the largest Habitat for Humanity partnership in Canada**

### ***\$6 million supports 67 affordable family homes in Alberta***

Edmonton... Sixty-seven low to moderate income families are one-step closer to having a place to call home thanks to an unprecedented partnership between Habitat for Humanity and the Alberta government. Habitat for Humanity will receive \$6 million to build 67 new homes in Brooks, Camrose, Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Olds and Red Deer.

"We will continue to support the economy during these challenging times through strategic infrastructure investments such as affordable housing," said Premier Ed Stelmach. "Helping Albertans by increasing the availability of affordable housing creates stronger, safer communities and a better future for us all."

The goal of Habitat for Humanity is to help families break the cycle of poverty by providing affordable homeownership opportunities.

"I commend Habitat for Humanity for helping hard working, lower income families obtain housing that is affordable and sustainable," said Yvonne Fritz, Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs. "These 67 new homes will make a significant difference in the quality of their lives."

All homes are built by volunteers and donors and sold to qualified families at 80 per cent of market value. Habitat for Humanity holds the mortgage, charges no interest and amortizes the mortgage for as many years as necessary to ensure families only pay up to 30 percent of their income for housing. Habitat's program requires a contribution of 500 hours of work by the homeowner recipient and their families.

The 2008-09 Request For Proposal (RFP) process is part of the Alberta government's five-year strategy to create more than 11,000 affordable housing units across the province by 2012. This RFP funding is a component of the \$309 million in capital funding committed in 2008/09.

To find out more about affordable housing programs and services supported by Alberta Housing and Urban Affairs please visit [www.housing.alberta.ca](http://www.housing.alberta.ca). To find out more information about Habitat for Humanity Edmonton visit their website at [www.hfh.org](http://www.hfh.org).

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