



# News Release

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*For Immediate Release*

October 29, 2014

## **Aboriginal families receive keys as Habitat and Métis Capital Housing Corporation complete second successful partnership.**

**Edmonton, AB** — Three Métis families are entering a new phase of life thanks to Habitat for Humanity and the Métis Capital Housing Corporation. The families are first-time homeowners, and have 10 children between them. Habitat volunteers and staff had worked diligently to renovate the families' beautiful homes in Edmonton's Londonderry and Calder communities.

"Housing is so vital to every human being on the planet, and it's even more important that it is affordable," said Alfred Nikolai, President & CEO, Habitat for Humanity Edmonton. "These three families have transitioned from renting to building equity in their homes and contributing to the tax base. They are building a strong foundation for their future and the future of the community at large."

These homes mark the completion of a second successful project in partnership between Habitat for Humanity Edmonton and the Métis Capital Housing Corporation. In 2011, the two organizations embarked on a pilot project of five homes and, as of today, completed a total of 10 homes rebuilt or renovated for Métis families.

"The Métis Capital Housing Corporation is proud of the partnership with Habitat that provides homeownership opportunity to low and modest income Metis families," said Darlene Lennie, CEO, Métis Capital Housing Corporation. "It's a win-win for both organizations!"

The Government of Alberta continues to support the role that Habitat for Humanity plays in bringing affordable homeownership to communities.

"The Government of Alberta is pleased to partner with Habitat for Humanity and help provide safe, affordable places to live," said Jeff Johnson, Alberta Seniors Minister. "There is a direct link between housing stability and a person's health and well-being. Having homes of their own will help these families thrive."

The advantage to owning a Habitat home is that families pay an interest-free mortgage and their payments never exceed 25 percent of their income. As their down payment, each family must contribute 500 hours of “sweat equity” by working on building their home or the homes of their neighbours. Every payment made by these families will be used to build more Habitat homes.

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### **About Habitat for Humanity**

Founded in 1991, Habitat for Humanity Edmonton (HFHE) is a charitable organization working towards a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. They mobilize volunteers and community partners in building affordable housing and promoting home ownership as a means to breaking the cycle of poverty. In 2013, HFHE provided 81 families with Habitat homes. Visit [HFH.org](http://HFH.org) for more information.

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