

For Immediate Release

June 30, 2020

Statement from Habitat Edmonton Board Chair, Chris Bruce - Charting a new path to resolution.

The past several months have been challenging and difficult for everyone involved in a legal dispute that has been ongoing with some of our partner families in Edmonton. The last thing we ever want to do is make life difficult for our partner families. We deeply regret the length of time this dispute has gone on without being resolved and the disappointment this has created for both the families involved and the larger Habitat community. We realize we did not meet the expectations of the families and we are committed to resolving this for them as fairly and quickly as possible.

We have always had the best of intentions towards our partner families, but we recognize that good intentions are not enough. We also recognize, as we shared on June 27, that it is time to move beyond court proceedings to resolve this situation for the families. We agree that mediation is the best path forward and look forward to hearing back from the families' lawyer about initiating mediation. We are committed to charting a new path that will resolve the families' concerns as fairly and quickly as possible.

No evictions have been planned and no families currently renting Habitat homes will be asked to leave those homes during these discussions and mediation. Habitat Edmonton is communicating that to any family that was informed otherwise. We would also like to confirm that families involved in the litigation who have signed a release or entered into the mortgage application process will have an opportunity to reconsider and to participate in the mediation if they choose to do so. We look forward to meeting with all of the families to review their options and address their concerns, with their lawyer if they wish.

We believe that our new mortgage offer is a good one that gives partner families the same affordability we have always provided as well as new and increased benefits. However, we recognize that we could have done better in communicating not only the change, but the many steps we took to make sure it was a good offer for families. We will do better in future. That is our commitment not only to the families, but also to our supporters, volunteers and community.

As we chart a new path forward, we will be doing this with new leadership. After two years as CEO, Karen Stone has step down as CEO effective yesterday. An interim leader will be announced shortly. The Board of Directors would like to thank Karen Stone for her hard work and many contributions during her time as President and CEO.

Our priority is to get a fair and quick resolution for the families who have been involved in this dispute and keeping partner families in Habitat homes will be the best outcome for all of us. We will continue to work to support the families involved and welcome the opportunity to work with them and their lawyer in good faith to reach a fair agreement.

About Habitat for Humanity Edmonton

Habitat Edmonton works to eliminate barriers to a better, healthier, and more financially stable life. With our help, Habitat homeowners achieve the strength, stability, and independence they need to build a better future for themselves and their families. Habitat Edmonton has empowering low-income families across northern Alberta since 1991. For more information, please visit HFH.org.

For media inquiries, please contact

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