



PRESS RELEASE



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Habitat for Humanity Helps Ten More Families Leave Poverty Housing

TORONTO, Ontario, June 26, 2005 — The lives of 10 families were forever changed today when they received the keys to their new Habitat for Humanity homes during a dedication ceremony at the largest Habitat site in Canadian history.

"Affordable housing is an important part of our commitment to build healthy, sustainable communities, and we are dedicated to working in partnership with organizations like Habitat for Humanity to address housing needs in Toronto and across the country," said Derek Lee, Member of Parliament for Scarborough-Rouge River, who attended today's dedication ceremony on behalf of the Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour and Housing. "The Government of Canada is proud to support the Habitat for Humanity Toronto breakthrough build."

Habitat for Humanity Toronto will celebrate two more dedications at the site later this year on October 7 and December 18, with another at the affiliate's downtown site in September.

"2005 is the year of dedications for Habitat Toronto. It is the year that the lives of over 200 men, women and children will be permanently changed as they move from poverty housing into their own simple, decent home. It all starts today with these ten families, as they receive the keys to their new homes," said Neil Hetherington, Habitat Toronto's CEO.

The homes are being built on a 2.1 acre property in the McLevin Woods area of Scarborough. The Habitat site is the last parcel of land to be sold by Canada Lands Company, is worth over \$2.3 million, and was made available to Habitat for Humanity Toronto under the Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative, a component of the Government of Canada's National Homelessness Initiative.

Construction of these 10 homes would not have been possible without the generous support of the following donors: Cadillac Fairview, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Colliers International, Greater Toronto Home Builders' Association, GWL Realty Advisors, The Hawkins Family, The New Country 95.3 FM, SNC-Lavalin ProFac, State Street, and partial home donors Baywood Homes/Citibank Foundation.

Habitat for Humanity gratefully acknowledges the support of our tool sponsor DeWalt Canada.

Founded in 1988, Habitat for Humanity Toronto, a non-profit, non-denominational Christian organization, welcomes, without discrimination, all people to build simple, decent homes in partnership with low-income families.

All administrative costs are funded by the operation of two Habitat ReStores which sell donated new and quality used renovation materials.

Building at a rate of one home every 24 minutes, Habitat for Humanity will have built more than 200,000 homes in over 100 countries by the end of 2005.

For further Information, please contact:

Neil Hetherington, CEO
Habitat for Humanity Toronto
Tel: (416) 755-7353 ext. 223 OR
cell: (416) 436-4190
neil@torontohabitat.on.ca