



PRESS RELEASE



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Habitat for Humanity Northumberland Builds First Home in a First Nation Community in Canada

ALDERVILLE, Ontario, May 30, 2009 — Habitat for Humanity Northumberland and Alderville First Nation are launching the first ever Habitat build in Canada in a First Nation community for a qualifying family.

The construction for this home was launched at a community celebration and sod-turning event. The project is the result of a partnership between Alderville First Nation, Habitat for Humanity Northumberland and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to address the challenges many families face in finding a safe, decent and affordable home.

"The Government of Canada is pleased to support the 2009 Habitat for Humanity Northumberland and Alderville First Nation Build," said Rick Norlock, Member of Parliament for Northumberland – Quinte West, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. "Affordable housing is an important part of Canada's Economic Action Plan and our government's commitment to build stronger, healthier and more sustainable communities. We are dedicated to working in partnership with organizations like Habitat for Humanity to address housing needs in Ontario and across the country, both off- and on-reserve."

"This is a historic opportunity for both Alderville First Nation and Habitat for Humanity Northumberland in their efforts to make homeownership a reality for another Habitat family. This type of partnership is exciting for me on many levels and I look forward to when the keys will be turned over to the proud new family," stated Lou Rinaldi, M.P.P. Northumberland – Quinte West.

The Alderville Build is another step towards reducing the barriers between families and home ownership. These types of partnerships are essential to address the more than 2,500 households within Northumberland County that are in need.

Chief Marsden of Alderville First Nation and Kim Lauder, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity Northumberland expressed their commitment to continuing this partnership for future home builds within their community, and are looking forward to building together this summer. They hope this will lay the foundation for other such partnerships.

CMHC is the lead national sponsor for Habitat's new Aboriginal Housing Program, a pilot project between CMHC and Habitat Canada which seeks to increase the number of Habitat homes for Aboriginal families. CMHC has been working with the First Nation and Habitat for Humanity Northumberland in developing this project and has contributed \$10,000 in seed funding.

Since its inception in 1998, Habitat for Humanity Northumberland has completed more than 26 homes across Northumberland County including Cobourg, Port Hope, Brighton, and Warkworth.

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Backgrounder

About Habitat for Humanity Northumberland

Habitat for Humanity Northumberland is a community-based, non-profit, faith-based organization working for a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. Our mission is to mobilize volunteers and community partners in building affordable housing and promoting homeownership as a means to breaking the cycle of poverty.

The organization was founded in Northumberland County, is a member of Habitat for Humanity Canada, and part of a worldwide network that spans 93 countries, has built over 300,000 homes, and is now building a new home every 10 minutes.