



MEDIA RELEASE

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Two families get the keys to their new Habitat homes

Welland, ON Two families in Welland are now proud homeowners thanks to Habitat for Humanity Niagara and their community partners and volunteers. This semi-detached home will provide stability and security for two families through Habitat's affordable homeownership program.

"We are proud for our new homeowners, they worked hard to take the steps required toward homeownership," said Mark Carl, CEO, Habitat for Humanity Niagara. "They completed 500 volunteer hours, helped to build their homes, and took workshops in budgeting and home maintenance to prepare them for this day when we hand them the keys."

Owning a Habitat home doesn't mean that you get a free house and just move in. Habitat's affordable homeownership program provides working families with an opportunity to purchase a safe and decent home by partnering with Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat's path to homeownership is an important and in-depth process, requiring hard work, time and dedication by the future homeowners, which helps to ensure the long-term success of Habitat homeowners.

"Our government believes that every Canadian deserves a safe place to call home. Across the country, we are working with Habitat for Humanity to build the safe, appropriate, affordable housing necessary for healthy and sustainable communities," said Vance Badawey, Member of Parliament for Niagara Centre and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indigenous Services. "Here in Welland, the investments in these new homes will make a real difference in the lives of two hard-working families – a place they can proudly call their own."

Through the National Housing Strategy, the Government of Canada has invested \$130,000 into these homes in Welland, bringing Habitat for Humanity one-step closer to creating 414 new affordable homes across Canada. This investment is part of a total federal financial commitment of \$32.4 million over three years (2019-2021) to Habitat for Humanity Canada and its affiliate organizations.

Habitat Niagara would like to thank the many generous supporters who have helped turned these homes into a reality for the two families, including: Government of Canada, City of Welland, Cotton Inc., Oakridge Cabinets, Abatement Technologies, LandPro Planning

Solutions, The DePro Team, Canvas Engineering, Niagara Roofmasters, Walker Industries, Pollard Windows and Doors, Allstate Insurance Canada, Court Holdings, M5V Developments and Amy Layton Real Estate.

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About Habitat for Humanity Niagara

Habitat Niagara builds safe, decent, and affordable homes, providing no down-payment, interest-free mortgages to qualifying families who would otherwise not be able to purchase their own homes. Habitat is not a giveaway program in that we provide "a hand up not a handout." Established locally in 1993, Habitat Niagara is constructing its 71st home in Niagara at the end of this year, serving 77 families over the past 29 years, creating stable and secure housing for more than 270 children.

Habitat for Humanity Niagara also operates a home improvement retail store – the ReStore – selling donated new and used appliances, furniture, kitchens, building materials and home supplies. Habitat for Humanity ReStores play an integral part in Habitat's mission, providing financial support for our work. The Niagara ReStores are located at 2499 Hwy 20, Fonthill, 185 South Service Road, Grimsby, and 150 Bunting Road, St. Catharines. For more information, please visit www.habitatniagara.ca

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