

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 22, 2019

Local Habitat for Humanity urging Guelph and Wellington County to address affordable housing crisis on National Housing Day

Guelph, ON – November 22 is National Housing Day in Canada. It's a day to acknowledge the work done by hundreds of organizations and thousands of people ensuring everyone across Canada has the dignity of a home.

But it's also an opportunity to reflect on the work that still needs to be done.

On this day, and every day, Habitat for Humanity Wellington Dufferin Guelph urges the community to help it raise awareness of the effects that Canada's affordable housing crisis is having on our communities.

The Affordable Housing Symposium Part 2 in Guelph, Ontario, held on November 21, was a chance for the Guelph and Wellington County community to work together to address our local affordable housing crisis. With a focus on developing leadership in our community, the enthusiasm in the room from 45 attendees representing 19 various organizations, including MP Lloyd Longfield, culminated in an agreement of how the next steps would be taken and by whom.

Facilitated by Dr. Rebecca Sutherns of Sage Solutions, the goal of this Symposium was to bring new models of cooperation forward that will offer solutions to the housing spectrum – from homelessness to affordable rent and ownership.

“It takes community to build a village,” says Steve Howard, CEO. “Working together in a new way, we can find more opportunities to build affordable housing, and find new ways to access funding, share costs, and improve efficiency. Because everyone deserves a safe and decent place to live.”

Habitat WDG is looking forward to the remediation of the former IMICO site which will see more affordable housing options coming to the area. Habitat is leading the formation of a coalition of affordable housing interests regarding this site.

More information about the Symposium can be found at: www.habitatwdg.ca/symposium.

-30-

For more information or to schedule an interview, contact:

Rachel Hopf
Marketing, Communications, and Community Engagement Specialist
Habitat for Humanity Wellington Dufferin Guelph
tel: 519-767-9752, ext. 36
rachel@habitatwdg.ca

About Habitat WDG

At Habitat for Humanity WDG, we envision a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. To achieve this vision, we partner with our community to build homes that provide the foundation for bright, stable and empowered futures for the families and individuals who live there. Our affiliate builds homes across our catchment area of Wellington Dufferin Guelph. Since 2000, we've built 25 homes and are in the process of completing a 28-unit development in Guelph and are planning a multi-unit build in Dufferin.

The Habitat for Humanity Canada model of affordable homeownership bridges a gap for people who face barriers to homeownership and would not otherwise qualify for a traditional mortgage. Local Habitat for Humanity organizations in every province and territory across Canada help build and rehabilitate decent and affordable homes, from single-family houses to multi-unit developments. With the help of volunteers and donors, Habitat helps families build their own homes and pay an affordable mortgage geared to their income. Safe, decent and affordable homeownership plays a critical role in helping families build a foundation for a life with better choices and more opportunities.