

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**161 New Affordable Homes for Calgarians in Need**

***Horizon Housing partners with Government of Alberta, donors and community to break ground on more affordable housing for Calgary's most vulnerable***

**Calgary, Alberta – April 27, 2017:** Horizon Housing Society and the RESOLVE Campaign host a groundbreaking event today from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 5025 45 Street SW to celebrate the commencement of full scale construction on 161 units of affordable housing.

The new development will become home for over 200 Calgarians experiencing various vulnerabilities including mental health challenges, limited mobility, brain injuries as well as individuals, families and seniors living below the poverty line and the working poor. It is made possible, in part, by support from: the Government of Alberta, donors to the RESOLVE Campaign, The City of Calgary, and other community members.

"This project is a living, breathing example of the power of collaboration and community. With this symbolic act of breaking ground, we acknowledge the contribution of so many in our community that have come together to make today a reality. We express our gratitude for the support of government, generosity of donors, and the commitment of our countless community partners, advocates, and champions that have worked tirelessly alongside us to get to this point," says Kim O'Brien, CEO of Horizon Housing Society. "Together, we take an important first step to make home possible for hundreds of Calgarians and share with them, the power of community."

There is an urgent need for safe, affordable homes with supports in Calgary. There are over 3,200 Calgarians experiencing homelessness and more than 14,000 households at extreme risk of becoming homeless. The Government of Alberta's contribution of \$17.9 million to the project in the form of a capital grant, is one of many significant supporters helping to move this project ahead in an effort to address the need.

"Every Albertan deserves a safe and affordable place to call home. I'm proud our government is making significant contributions to affordable housing," said Lori Sigurdson, Minister of Seniors and Housing. "By working alongside our community partners to invest in sustainable affordable housing solutions today, our government is making life better for Albertans."

The groundbreaking marks a significant step toward achieving RESOLVE's goal of making home a reality for 3,000 vulnerable Calgarians through a first-of-its-kind collaboration between nine agencies.

"Thanks to the generous commitment of the Government of Alberta and RESOLVE donors, Horizon Housing will offer over 200 people the stability and security of a place to call home," said Randy Findlay, Vice-Chair, RESOLVE Campaign, and Chairman of Pembina Pipeline Corporation. "We know that when people are given a home with the right supports, they are better able to overcome the challenges that led them to become vulnerable. I am proud to be a part of the RESOLVE Campaign and the resulting projects that will make Calgary a better home for everyone."

Bob Patrick, Horizon Housing resident and community advocate, knows too well how life can change in an instant. After a severe anxiety attack left him hospitalized for weeks, Bob lost his job as a businessman, his family, and eventually, his home. He tried to go back to work but anxiety, along with a heavy cloud of paranoia and depression, hung over him everywhere he went.

"I was the last person anyone would expect to fall apart," he says. Eventually, Bob was connected with a support worker with the Canadian Mental Health Association and soon discovered his new home with Horizon Housing. Ever since, Bob's story has transformed from one of desperation, to one of hope. "I'm one of the lucky ones who has a chance to heal from their illness. Living at a Horizon Housing property has given me the opportunity to find myself again and I'm grateful to have a safe place to come home to," Bob says. "It has saved my life."

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Support from the Government of Alberta, City of Calgary, donors to the RESOLVE Campaign, community partners and the surrounding neighbourhood of Glamorgan have made it possible to embark on full-scale construction of 161 new units of affordable housing.

The new affordable housing development will serve individuals experiencing mental health challenges, limited mobility, brain injuries as well as individuals, families and seniors living below the poverty line and the working poor. To promote further integration of tenants within the building and broader community, units will be a mix of one, two and three bedrooms, 12 three bedroom townhomes and will feature several barrier-free units along with dedicated indoor and outdoor community spaces.

Join us in celebrating a significant step toward ending homelessness and advancing work to meet the need for affordable housing in Calgary. It is a project made possible through the collaboration of government, community, volunteers, and non-profits that have been advocates and champions for this issue.

**WHO:**

- Representatives for both Horizon Housing Society and the RESOLVE Campaign
- Horizon Housing's tenant advocates
- Glamorgan residents
- Horizon Housing's partner agencies
- Government representatives
- Donors to the project

**WHAT:**

- The 'first dig' for the groundbreaking of Horizon Housing's RESOLVE project
- A celebration for this important step in accomplishing Calgary's Plan to End Homelessness through Housing First

**SPEAKERS:**

- Emcee: Amber Schinkel, Anchor, Global News Calgary's Morning News
- Bob Patrick, Horizon Housing Society, Resident
- Kelly GoodEagle
- Hon. Kent Hehr, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence
- Hon. Lori Sigurdson, Minister of Seniors and Housing
- His Worship, Naheed Nenshi, Mayor
- Randy Findlay, Chairman, Pembina Pipeline Corporation and Vice-Chair, RESOLVE Campaign
- Kim O'Brien, CEO, Horizon Housing Society

**WHERE:**

- 5025 45 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta

**PARKING:**

- Parking is available at St. Stephen's Church, located at 4903 45 Street SW

**WHEN:**

- Thursday, April 27, 2017
- 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Program will begin at 10:10 a.m. with media interviews to follow

**INTERVIEWS:** (Media interviews will occur between 11:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. upon request)

- Bob Patrick, Horizon Housing Society, Resident
- Hon. Kent Hehr, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence
- Hon. Lori Sigurdson, Minister of Seniors and Housing
- His Worship, Naheed Nenshi, Mayor
- Randy Findlay, Chairman, Pembina Pipeline Corporation and Vice-Chair, RESOLVE Campaign
- Kim O'Brien, CEO, Horizon Housing Society

**PHOTOS:**

- The 'first dig' to kick-off construction on Horizon Housing's RESOLVE project

### **About Horizon Housing Society**

Horizon Housing Society is a not for profit organization providing affordable, integrated and supported homes to over 700 individuals in the city of Calgary. The Society serves tenants with a variety of special needs including individuals living with mental health challenges, physical disabilities, families and seniors living below the poverty line and the working poor. For more information, visit: [www.horizonhousing.ab.ca](http://www.horizonhousing.ab.ca).

### **About RESOLVE**

RESOLVE is in the final year of its unique collaboration of nine Partner agencies to build affordable and supported rental housing for 3,000 vulnerable and homeless Calgarians. The nine respected and established agencies have partnered with government, business and community leaders, all resolving to make Calgary a better home – for everyone. The RESOLVE Partners include: Accessible Housing; Bishop O'Byrne Housing Association; Calgary Alpha House Society; Calgary Homeless Foundation; Calgary John Howard Society; Horizon Housing Society; Silvera for Seniors; The Mustard Seed; and Trinity Place Foundation of Alberta. Visit, [www.resolvecampaign.com](http://www.resolvecampaign.com).

– 30 –

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