



Breakthrough Build for Toronto

Toronto, May 17, 2004 – Canada Lands Company, the Government of Canada and Habitat for Humanity Toronto (HFHT) today announced plans for HFHT’s breakthrough build in Canada Lands Company’s McLevin Woods project located in the northeast part of Toronto. The HFHT development includes 40 condominium town home units on a 2.1 acre parcel.

The McLevin Woods subdivision is 41 acres with 600 units approved for development along with other amenities such as parks and woodlots. The Habitat site is the last parcel of land to be sold by Canada Lands Company in the McLevin Woods development, construction of the units expected to start early this summer. The land valued at \$2.3 million was made available to Habitat for Humanity under the Surplus Federal Real Property for Homelessness Initiative (SFRPHI), a component of the Government of Canada’s National Homelessness Initiative (NHI).

The announcement was made by the Honourable Joe Volpe, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, on behalf of the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Minister responsible for Homelessness; the Honourable Stephen Owen, Minister of Public Works and Government Services; and the Honourable Andy Scott, Minister of State (Infrastructure) and Minister responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Canada Lands Company. “This is another example of how the Government of Canada is committed to improving cities and communities all across Canada, while dealing with important issues like housing. When various departments, Crowns and the not-for-profit sector are able to come together in partnership, the results are impressive,” said Minister Volpe.

“This development is the largest ever undertaken by Habitat for Humanity in Canada,” said Neil Hetherington, CEO, HFHT. “We are grateful to the Government of Canada, whose dedication and hard work is positively and permanently changing the lives of families living in need.”

“Canada Lands is extremely pleased with the progress of the McLevin Woods project,” said Kevin Garland, Board Member, Canada Lands Company. “The determination of our fellow federal partners played a crucial part in the fruition of the HFHT Breakthrough Build.”

The Government of Canada launched the NHI to support communities’ efforts to help Canadians out of homelessness. From 1999 to 2006, \$1.15 billion is being spent towards the federal government's commitment to addressing homelessness in Canada. The SFRPHI, a component of the NHI, compensates federal departments and agencies at market value for surplus properties and transfers them at a nominal cost to community organizations, the not-for-profit sector, such as Habitat for Humanity, and other orders of government for projects to help alleviate and prevent homelessness. By 2006, the SFRPHI is expected to provide communities across Canada with up to \$19 million worth of surplus federal property to address needs related to homelessness.

The Government of Canada is also endeavouring to address the need for affordable housing through a variety of initiatives and on many levels. Under the Affordable Housing Initiative, the Government of Canada will be investing \$1 billion by the end of 2007-2008.



Habitat for Humanity (HFH), founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller, has built over 160,000 homes in over 92 countries around the world for people living in substandard housing. All donations in Toronto go directly to covering costs of land, building materials and permits. Homeowners invest 500 hours of their own labour for building their house and other HFH homes.

Canada Lands Company is a federal Crown corporation reactivated in 1995 to optimize the financial and community value obtained from surplus properties no longer required by the Government of Canada. The company is self-financing, pays all taxes, and implements innovative property solutions to enhance the quality of life in communities where it operates. Since its inception, the company has distributed hundreds of millions of dollars to the government as dividends, cash acquisitions and payments for properties.

-30-

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