

Media Release

National Housing Day 2007

Thorold, November 19, 2007 - Thursday, November 22 marks the 9th National Housing Day in Canada, commemorating the 1998 declaration by the Big City Mayor's Caucus that homelessness in Canada had reached crisis proportions. Each year, National Housing Day prompts another look at the state of affordable housing in Canada and the tragedy of homelessness that remains evident across our nation.

Today in Niagara more than 4,400 households (representing more 8,000 individuals) are waiting for affordable housing through Niagara Regional Housing (NRH). For those on the waiting list it is a struggle to live healthy, productive lives. Studies have shown that housing has a direct effect on physical and mental health, family cohesiveness, criminal behaviour, educational success and job retention. Supporting data indicates that the shortage of affordable housing extends beyond those immediately affected, as it impacts the social character and economy of the entire community.

"Affordable housing provides a positive environment in which households needing lower rents can thrive and be productive members of our community," commented Lora Beckwith, General Manager of Niagara Regional Housing (NRH), "It is difficult, if not impossible, to go to school, maintain employment or contribute to the community without the safety and security of a home. We know from our years' of experience how affordable housing has improved the lives of individuals and our communities".

Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) provides quality, safe and affordable housing in Niagara through:

- Partnerships with non-profit/co-operative housing providers
- Agreements with private landlords
- Directly in its portfolio of owned units
- Linkages with Federal and Provincial government and proponents to develop new affordable housing communities
- Administration of the Rent Bank program

For further information on National Housing Day, Niagara Regional Housing and/or affordable housing in Niagara, please contact:

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