

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 18, 2024

### Key Ceremony Welcomes Five Families into New Homes in Courtenay

**COURTENAY, BC** – Habitat for Humanity Vancouver Island North is pleased to announce another significant milestone in our ongoing mission to provide affordable housing for families in need. Five families have just moved into five newly constructed homes in Courtenay, BC, continuing the positive momentum established when seven families were welcomed to the same complex last August.

This Key Ceremony is an extraordinary moment for these deserving families. It symbolizes the dedication to affordable housing and community development that Habitat for Humanity has once again diligently worked to make happen. “We are thrilled to welcome these wonderful families to their new homes in Courtenay,” said Jeff West, Executive Director at Habitat for Humanity Vancouver Island North. “This achievement is a testament to the collaborative efforts of our employees, volunteers, donors, and community partners who all played a major role in making affordable housing a reality for these deserving families.”

“By working with organizations like Habitat for Humanity, we are committed to ensuring that every Canadian has a safe place to call their own,” said the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities. “Today’s announcement is an example of what strong partnerships in the housing sector can do to help build more affordable homes across the country. I am pleased to welcome these five families into their new homes today, and I wish them all the best as they start their next chapters.”

In March 2023, the Government of Canada and Habitat for Humanity Canada announced an additional \$25 million investment to build 500 new affordable homes across Canada over the next three years. This brings the total federal investment in Habitat for Humanity to \$80.8 million through the Affordable Housing Fund.

Habitat Vancouver Island North would like to thank the many volunteers who donated their time and skills to help make the dream of homeownership a reality for these five deserving families. We'd also like to thank our wonderful sponsors, who, without moments like this would not be possible. They include the Government of Canada, the City of Courtenay, Nelson Roofing, United Floors, Footprints Security, Whirlpool, Edgett Excavating, Ricky's Grill, and so many others. With this project now complete, Habitat Vancouver Island North will focus on fundraising efforts for the construction of another multi-unit project in the Comox Valley area.

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### **About Habitat for Humanity Vancouver Island North**

With the help of volunteers and Habitat homeowners, Habitat for Humanity Vancouver Island North builds safe, decent, and affordable homes. We also operate two ReStores, one in Courtenay and one in Campbell River. Habitat VIN has brought the community together to build homes on North Vancouver Island since its founding in 2004. Because of families who eventually sold their homes back to Habitat, we have been able to serve a total of 55 homeowner families. Habitat does not give away free homes — families partnering with us pay a mortgage geared to their income and volunteer 500 hours with our organization. As Habitat homeowners pay off their mortgages, funds are reinvested into a revolving fund we use to build homes for more families. Our model of affordable homeownership helps families by providing them with the opportunity to purchase their own Habitat home and build a better future. For more information, visit [habitatnorthisland.com](http://habitatnorthisland.com).

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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