

Habitat Victoria Welcomes Young Family to their Affordable Home

June 30, 2022, NORTH SAANICH, B.C.: On Wednesday, June 29th, Habitat for Humanity welcomed Travis, Sabrina and their four children to their brand new affordable home with a celebratory Key Ceremony. They are the ninth family to move into Habitat Victoria's largest build project to date: a 10-unit multi-family complex in North Saanich.

When their rental home of six years sold, Travis and Sabrina tried everything they could think of to find a suitable home. "We were unable to find another rental so we've been living in a room at our friend's house. The girls have a small bedroom and we operate completely out of our bedroom," says Sabrina. "That's where I eat, that's my office, that's our living room, that's where we sleep, that's where our youngest two sleep. We do everything in there," Travis adds.

Finding a stable, affordable home was not in the cards for this young Victoria family of six amidst a housing shortage in the Greater Victoria area. "We both work solid jobs and it still wasn't easy for us to get ahead in the housing market in Victoria. This was make or break on whether we had a home or not, and now we do thanks to Habitat," says Travis. "There is an ongoing demand for affordable homeownership in Greater Victoria and we are grateful for the opportunity to give Travis and Sabrina's family a hand-up," says Sandra Raath, Board President at Habitat for Humanity Victoria.

"Every Canadian deserves safe and affordable housing, and that is why our government is happy to support Habitat for Humanity in their goal of providing Canadian families like Travis' and Sabrina's a place to call their home," says the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion. "Working with non-profits to provide supportive and affordable homes for those who need them the most is a core pillar of our National Housing Strategy."

The government of Canada provided \$32.4 million financial commitment over three years (2019-2021) to Habitat for Humanity Canada and its affiliate organizations including Habitat for Humanity Victoria.

Acquiring land to build affordable homes continues to be the single greatest challenge for Habitat Victoria. The 10-unit Habitat development was possible because of the generous donation of land from local developers, The Berglund Family. Including the land donation to Habitat Victoria in the development plans was key to solving the approval for the entire project. "Affordable homeownership is essential and Habitat Victoria hopes to partner with more local developers to serve more families like Travis and Sabrina," says Tiffany Gates, Director of Family Services at Habitat Victoria.

About Habitat for Humanity Victoria

Habitat for Humanity Victoria brings communities together to help families build strength, stability, and independence through affordable homeownership. Founded in 1990, Habitat Victoria has built 34 homes in the Capital Region District to date.

Through volunteer service, efficient management, funder support and tax-deductible donations of money and materials, Habitat for Humanity Victoria builds safe, decent, and affordable houses. Habitat



houses are then sold to qualifying partner families and financed with affordable mortgages. In addition to mortgage payments, each homeowner invests hundreds of hours of their own labour through volunteer service into Habitat projects, including the building of their own home and the homes of others partner families, as well as its ReStores and events.

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