



Press Release | Media Event

July 11, 2016 at 11:00 am
University of Winnipeg Front Lawn
515 Portage Avenue

HABITAT KICKS OFF TWO WEEK BLITZ BUILD AT UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG CAMPUS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Business community and University of Winnipeg join Habitat for Humanity Manitoba in two-week Blitz Build for an Indigenous Family.

Winnipeg, Manitoba – July 8, 2016 – University of Winnipeg is hosting their first two-week Habitat Blitz Build on the campus front lawn located at 515 Portage Avenue. Sponsors for this build include Investors Group, Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating (CIPH) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). This unique partnership with Habitat creates an opportunity for an Indigenous family to purchase their first home through our Indigenous Housing program.

“Habitat taps into the many talents in our community and adds strength and resilience to our inner city neighbourhoods,” said Dr. Annette Trimbee, President and Vice-Chancellor, UWinnipeg. “The University of Winnipeg is honoured to host this Habitat build and provide volunteer support, which will result in a new home for an Indigenous family.”

Kyle, Sasha and their daughter Hailey (8) are currently living with Kyle’s family. Kyle is from Norway House Cree Nation and Sasha is from Sagkeeng First Nation. The family plans to put every penny they have towards paying their mortgage and will do whatever it-takes to meet their obligation. Kyle left school around the age of 16 and has maintained steady employment everywhere he has gone. He is currently working for Blue Maxx Basement Systems as an installer. Sasha is attending an Adult Education program and has one year left to earn her high school diploma.

We are delighted to be partnering in such a high profile manner with the University of Winnipeg and long-time supporters Investors, CIPH and SFI. This kind of multi-tiered partnership is indicative of the broad based approach needed to improve the quality of life for a family and our community at large, said Sandy Hopkins, CEO of HFH Manitoba.

In 2015 Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) pledged \$100,000 over three years in support of Habitat for Humanity Canada’s Indigenous Housing Program to help build a better tomorrow for Indigenous families. Habitat Manitoba was selected as one of three Affiliates to benefit from their grant.

SFI is pleased to be a partner of Habitat for Humanity Canada’s Indigenous Housing Program and to help work on important projects like today’s build with Habitat for Humanity Manitoba and other sponsors. We are proud to work with members of our community to be a part of building this wonderful family’s new home,” said Andrew deVries, Vice-President of Conservation & Indigenous Relations.

Each Habitat home requires approximately \$175,000 to construct, which does not include the cost of the land. The money is raised in a variety of ways with significant support from the corporate community. The Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating (CIPH) has a long history of home sponsorship across the country. They first built with Habitat Manitoba in 2006 and are back as the Title Home Sponsor for this exciting project.

“CIPH is thrilled to be an active and ongoing supporter of Habitat for Humanity. Our connection with this organization goes back more than 20 years and over that time more than 12 million in cash and product donations from our members have been invested in communities across Canada, helping hundreds of families. We are excited to be involved with this unique project in Winnipeg, providing support in a way that only Habitat can. ”

This home is one of ten that will be constructed in Winnipeg in 2016. Investors Group has been involved with Habitat Manitoba since the Jimmy Carter Work Project in 1993. Their commitment to supporting Habitat projects in Winnipeg provides an incredible team building opportunity for their employees and in turn, helps a partner family to achieve financial security and improved health.

“Investors Group is happy to team up once again with two long-term, local partners – Habitat for Humanity Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg,” said John Wiltshire, Senior Vice-President, Marketing at Investors Group. “At Investors Group, we invest in life and proudly support Habitat for Humanity Manitoba as they build homes for families to enhance their lives.”

Habitat for Humanity Manitoba is the local affiliate of a global non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating poverty housing and to making decent housing a matter of conscience. Since 1987, HFHM has partnered with local businesses, faith groups, and thousands of dedicated volunteers to build homes for over 340 Manitoba families with over 1000 children having a better future.

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Media Event

- **Where** 515 Portage Avenue
University of Winnipeg front Lawn
- **10:00 am** Traditional Blessing and Smudging
(not available for media coverage)
- **11:00 am** Media Conference begins
- **11:45 am** Media Conference concludes
- **11:47 am** Indigenous Dance performance
- **11:30 am** Media interviews will follow official agenda

For more information

Michelle Pereira

VP, Marketing, Communications & Philanthropy
Habitat for Humanity Manitoba
T. 204-235-2402
C. 5204-232-5098
E. mpereira@habitat.mb.ca

Kevin Rosen

Executive Director of Marketing and
Communications
University of Winnipeg
P: 204.786.9381
E: k.rosen@uwinnipeg.ca