



Support for Homeless Veterans

Tuesday, August 29 - Ottawa. The Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) and Helmets to Hardhats (H2H) Canada made a joint announcement today to support homeless veterans.

Brigadier-General (retd) Greg Matte, National Executive Director of H2H Canada, presented \$25,000 towards Veterans' House, a building to be constructed for homeless veterans on the site of the former airforce base, CFB Rockcliffe. As well, Suzanne Le, Executive Director of MHI, which will own and manage the new building, indicated the two organizations will work together to include as many veterans as possible in its construction.

MHI is a coalition of faith communities coordinating their efforts to provide and promote safe, affordable housing for lower income households in Ottawa. It currently owns and operates 139 rental housing units. H2H Canada provides Canadian military veterans and serving reservists with opportunities for apprenticeship training and careers in Canada's building and construction industries.

When complete, Veterans House will provide a community of 40 units for homeless veterans and veterans at risk of becoming homeless. Following a housing first model, it will include social support to help those with health conditions. The \$8 million project was announced in November 2014 and construction is expected to begin in 2018.

The Veterans House project is supported by several partners, including Ottawa Salus, which will provide the support services, CAHDSCO, which is in charge of developing and managing the construction, Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command and District G, Soldiers Helping Soldiers, VETS Canada, True Patriot Love, Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services, and Support our Troops.

“Today we are pleased to welcome an addition to this impressive community,” Ms Le said. “Helmets to Hardhats Canada is a natural collaborator for us. They have done so much to help veterans successfully transition to civilian life after they leave the military. I can’t think of a more meaningful way to say thank you, we are grateful for your service and recognize your value.”

“This is a natural partnership for Helmet to Hardhats,” General Matte added. “Like so many of you, we don’t think veterans should be living on the streets. We hope our contribution will help them rebuild their lives. And for the transitioning veterans who take part in the building of Veterans House, I believe this will offer more than a valuable training experience. It will be an honour for them.”

The announcement was made at HMCS Bytown Officers’ Mess in Ottawa this afternoon.

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For more information:

Veterans House:

www.veteranshousecanada.ca

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MHI: Celebrating 15 years of Communities Building Communities!

Helmets to Hardhats:

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