



NEWS RELEASE

Coalition's Fundraising Campaign to Build Transition Home for Women Receives Boost from BHP Billiton

Yellowknife: May 2, 2011: BHP Billiton EKATI Diamond Mine is the latest corporate donor to the Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition's Campaign to build a new transition home for single women, and women with children, in Yellowknife. The \$700,000 contribution is the largest amount received to date for the project, and brings the Coalition one step closer to seeing the transition home become a reality.

"This donation really demonstrates the commitment BHP Billiton is making to our community," says Amanda Mallon, Coalition Co-chair. "We know Yellowknife, and the Northwest Territories needs this home. We hope more businesses like BHP Billiton EKATI Diamond Mine will stand with us and take on the challenge to tackle homelessness."

The transition home will help single women and women with children who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, and have no place to go. By providing a safe and stable home with programming designed to develop additional skills, the home will help these women transition to permanent or market housing.

"Today marks the first year of BHP Billiton's three-year, \$700,000 commitment to the Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition's campaign to build a new transition shelter for single women and women with children." says Paul Harvey, Asset President of BHP Billiton EKATI Diamond Mine. "The women and families that will benefit from this home work very hard under extremely difficult circumstances to improve their lives and provide a better future for their children. We are proud to play a small part in that."

The Coalition continues to seek government, corporate, and community support for this important community project aimed at housing women in a safe and supportive environment.

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BACKGROUND

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YELLOWKNIFE: May 2, 2011

- In 1999, the Federal Government, through its department of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), launched a three year National Homelessness Initiative (NHI) to help reduce homelessness in communities all across Canada. The Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition (YKHC) formed in January 2000 in response to the NHI.
- The Coalition has many members and includes partners from all levels of government, faith and youth groups, women's organizations, shelter, and service providers.
- Transitional housing is housing with programming and supports that assist a person to successfully transition into market housing.
- There are several situations that create a need for transitional housing:
 - Domestic abuse;
 - Social issues;
 - Lack of tenancy skills; or
 - Inability to overcome barriers (like a poor credit record).
- Homelessness, or being at risk of homelessness, affects women across the north. Women in shelters often stay longer than shelters are meant to house them. They may return repeatedly to shelters, or return to the home and abuse they fled because there is no other housing option.
- In December 2010, the Coalition identified the YWCA as the intended owner and operator of the transition home.
- Total estimated cost to construct the home is \$6 million. The YKHC hopes to cover this cost through a combination of government funding and corporate and community member donations.

- To date, the Coalition received contributions to the fundraising campaign from:
 - The Yellowknife Community Foundation (\$50,000)
 - BHP Billiton (\$700,000)
 - Individual Community members (\$25,000)
 - Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS): Land Purchase (\$935,000)
 - Possibility of 2011-2014 Federal HPS Funding for Yellowknife

- A contract has been awarded for architectural and engineering services for the proposed building.

- The Coalition is completing a needs assessment with women in the community to determine housing (building) configuration and program needs for future residents.

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