



MENNOHOMES' AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT BREAKS GROUND

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kitchener, May 26, 2020.

MennoHomes began construction this week on a new affordable housing project at 544 Bridgeport Road East, Kitchener. The five-story building will have 48 living units consisting of one-bedroom and two bedroom apartments. The location at the intersection of Bridgeport and Lancaster, in northeast Kitchener, provides easy access to many facilities, and has two bus routes at the door.

The project is the result of three strong and committed partners who have come together to address the challenge of affordable housing: MennoHomes, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Parents for Community Living (PCL). The new project, divided into two phases, will eventually create more than 80 affordable housing units. It will also include worship space for St. Paul's, a community room and kitchen for PCL, and a mix of shared and dedicated meeting space for the three partners and community groups.

The 44,000 sq. ft building has an overall budget of \$15.3 million. Government contributions totaling \$4.6 million are being provided by the Federal and Provincial governments, the Region of Waterloo, and the City of Kitchener.

With almost 5,000 households on the local Community Housing waiting list, the need for affordable housing is as great as ever. In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, the link between appropriate housing and personal health has also been reinforced.

"I am pleased to personally support this project and lead a group of dedicated individuals in raising the necessary funds to make it a reality for this building's future residents to have *A Place to Call Home*." said Carl Zehr, Capital Campaign Chair.

MennoHomes has launched the \$5 million *A Place to Call Home* capital campaign to raise the funds necessary for their contribution to the project. To support this campaign Out-Spok'n X, their annual fundraising bike-a-thon, will transition to being a virtual event this year to be held on Saturday June 27th. Participants can register or donate online at <https://mennohomes.com/out-spokn-x-bike-a-thon-for-affordable-housing-june-27/>.

Attachment – Carl Zehr and Dan Driedger onsite during construction on May 26th, 2020

For more information:

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Visit: www.mennohomes.com

MennoHomes Inc. is a non-profit charitable organization (CRA # 86304 7015 RR0001) founded in 2001. We're passionate about working to provide quality affordable housing to households with low incomes throughout Waterloo Region. Since our first build in 2004, MennoHomes now has 105 rental housing units within Waterloo Region. These are a mix of single unit apartments for seniors, family duplexes, and multi-bedroom housing.