



The Open Door

The Homes For Heroes Newsletter February 2022

Opening of Edmonton Veterans' Village

After four years of planning, design, government approvals and construction, our Edmonton Veterans' Village is now complete and started welcoming its first cohort of 20 homeless Veterans on December 1, 2021.



Guests, building partners, supporters and the media gather for the Grand Opening of our Edmonton Veterans' Village

A Grand Opening ceremony was held at the Village on November 25th:

"This is an exciting time for our charity and the entire Veteran's community. We were successful in bringing together all levels of government, corporations, social clubs, and individuals who pledged their support to make this a reality.

Today is proof that all Canadians love and respect those that have served" stated David Howard CEO and Co-Founder of the Homes for Heroes Foundation. "The Edmonton community has been absolutely fantastic. From the day we announced our building plan they have been supportive of the ATCO Veterans Village" stated Howard.

"The number of homeless vets has grown since the pandemic. There's no quick fix but if vets are struggling, we need to be there for them," Premier Jason Kenney told those gathered at the grand opening of the village in the city's Evansdale neighbourhood. "Here they'll find comfortable homes with all the features of larger houses, along with the peace and stability they need for a fresh start."

Nancy Southern, Chair and Chief Executive Officer of ATCO, was on hand at the event to speak to the over 140 dignitaries in attendance. "The people of ATCO have a long and proud history working alongside the brave men and women of Canada's military – heroes who have given so much to preserve our security and freedom. That is why it is such a profound honour for ATCO to participate in this critical project, and to provide our Veterans with a place that they can proudly call their own, a small but important gesture when measured against their herculean sacrifice." stated Southern.



ATCO Chair and CEO, Nancy Southern, speaks during the Grand Opening Ceremony

Our Honourary Patrons, the Right Honourable David Johnston and his wife Sharon, addressed guests through a recorded video.

David commented "What started as just a concept in the minds of two individuals who cared, and were concerned, about the well-being of our Veterans has now become a reality".

Sharon reflected on Remembrance Day and offered that: "Today, let's pause once again, and think about the Veterans who did make it home, but who may have paid a heavy price to protect our rights, freedoms and values, and have since lost their way. They too stood on guard for use – and now they need, and deserve, our help."



Interior of one of the Edmonton Veteran's homes

Homes For Heroes couldn't be more pleased with the opening of this new Village for homeless Veterans. At the same time, we know that it is only now that the truly important work begins – helping our Veterans-in-need. Our program is showing great success in Calgary - now we need to do the same in Edmonton.

The Property Brothers launch Public Service Announcement in support of Homes For Heroes



Jonathan and Drew Scott, known best as The Property Brothers, and one of the most successful lifestyle and entertainment teams in the industry, are appealing for support for the Homes For Heroes Foundation.

The Brothers have recorded a Public Service Announcement that will be broadcast on all major media outlets for the next several months. And they are working! We have already seen a significant increase in interest in Homes For Heroes on our website since the broadcasts began.

Chris Hadfield joins Homes For Heroes as Honourary National Spokesperson

Homes For Heroes Foundation (H4HF) is extremely pleased to announce that Commander Chris Hadfield is now an Honorary Patron of the foundation.



Chris Hadfield is an engineer, military fighter/test pilot and thrice-flown astronaut, having done two spacewalks and commanded the International Space Station. He is an advisor/director for multiple high-tech companies and leads the Space stream at the Creative Destruction Lab tech incubator.

Chris is a four-time internationally best-selling author, a professor at U Waterloo and online at Masterclass, and has created/hosted TV series with both BBC and National Geographic.

Welcome to the team Chris!

To all of our Donors and Supporters:

Homes For Heroes continues to grow and expand its efforts to assist homeless Veterans across the country and, in the process, is attracting important national endorsements. It is incredibly gratifying to win the approval of well-known and respected national figures like Chris Hadfield and Jonathan and Drew Scott and to hear their concerns for our Veterans-in-need.

With Edmonton complete we are now working hard on siting, planning and obtaining the necessary approvals for our Villages in Kingston, Ontario and Winnipeg, Manitoba. At the same time, we are seeking Village sites in Halifax, Nova Scotia and in British Columbia. To maintain this momentum and reach our goal of ending homelessness among Canada's Veterans, we need your help. Please consider making a donation today, at <https://homesforheroesfoundation.ca/donate/>. The cause is worthy and the need is urgent – please donate now to help our Veterans-in-need!

On behalf of the Homes For Heroes team we hope you remain healthy and well.

Sincerely,

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