



News Release

Habitat for Humanity-AFPA Partnership Builds More Than Houses

Edmonton, December 14, 2004 – Members of the Alberta Forest Products Association were recognized by Habitat for Humanity Canada for their dedication and contributions to Habitat’s home-building program during a meeting at the AFPA offices in Edmonton on December 14, 2004.

Mr. David Hughes, President and CEO, Habitat for Humanity Canada and David Butler, Acting Vice President, Marketing and Development and Senior Corporate Relations Officer, were in Edmonton to meet with and recognize Alberta-based contributors to Habitat for Humanity in Canada.

Misters Hughes and Butler met with Art Lemay, President, and Neil Shelly, Executive Director, Alberta Forest Products Association to honour the Alberta forest products industry’s continued and substantial support for Habitat for Humanity.

In 2004, fully 100 percent of the Alberta forest companies asked to assist Habitat for Humanity’s efforts responded positively. No other Alberta industry group matches this level of overall commitment.

David Hughes said, “To the families helped by Habitat for Humanity, a shiny new key to their new home can seem like precious metal – capable of opening the door to a new future full of hope and opportunity. It is such keys, cut from the generosity of volunteers and donors across Canada, that are making all the difference for families who are trying to break the seemingly endless cycle of poverty. AFPA members have been at the forefront of donors in western Canada, for which we, our affiliates and our partner families are truly grateful.”

A 2004 CMHC/HFH Canada survey indicated the children of Habitat Canada partner families have become healthier, happier and are doing better in school; many who probably would not have done so, are going on to post secondary education. Families that were once struggling on one or two minimum wages are now building for the future and are net contributors to their communities.

AFPA President, Art Lemay responded to Mr. Hughes’ comments, saying “Alberta’s forest products industry is a major engine of the Alberta economy that provides not only jobs for Albertans and responsible management and protection of our environment; it also is a significant contributor to the quality of life in the towns and cities where we have operations.”

AFPA Member companies who contributed to the Habitat for Humanity program in Alberta include: Alberta Plywood Ltd., Ainsworth Lumber Co. Ltd., Buchanan Lumber, Clareco Industries Ltd., Canadian Forest Products Ltd., Millar Western Forest Products Ltd., Palliser Lumber Sales Ltd., Spray Lake Sawmills (1980) Ltd., Tolko Industries Ltd., Vanderwell Contractors (1971) Ltd., Weldwood of Canada Limited, Western Archrib, West Fraser Mills (Blue Ridge Lumber Inc.), and Weyerhaeuser Company Limited.



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As the representative of all these companies at this ceremony, Mr. Lemay added, “Our industry is here for the long term as represented by our sustainable plans in forest management. By supporting Habitat for Humanity, AFPA member companies are helping build sustainable communities as well. Our companies’ involvement with Habitat for Humanity is just one shining example of our commitment to bettering the whole Alberta landscape.”

Habitat for Humanity International, founded in 1976, is a non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating substandard housing around the world. The Habitat program is about home ownership, a long-term solution designed to break the poverty cycle. Funds, building materials, and labour are donated by individuals, corporations, and other organizations that share the goal of providing decent, and affordable housing to families in need. Habitat for Humanity International is now active in 100 countries, and has sold more than 180,000 homes to qualified partner families.

Habitat for Humanity Canada was founded in 1985 and has placed more than 800 impoverished families into new homes from coast to coast. There are 65 affiliates in 10 provinces and one territory; the national headquarters is located in Waterloo, Ontario. The Canadian goal for 2005 is to have put more than 1,000 families into Habitat homes.

The AFPA is a private, non-profit industry organization, representing member companies that manufacture lumber, panelboard, pulp and paper and secondary manufactured wood products in Alberta. The forest products industry is Alberta’s third largest manufacturing industry and second largest manufacturing export industry, providing significant economic contributions to more than 50 communities. AFPA member companies are active participants in sustainability advancements that benefit our industry, our environment and our society.

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