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## JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

### **Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce and Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board form a Collaborative Partnership to launch a Tiny Home Pilot for Saugeen First Nation**

**OWEN SOUND, ON** – Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce and Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board are excited to announce the formation of a new collaborative partnership to engage students and faculty at St. Mary's High School in building a Tiny Home for Saugeen First Nation.

Under the direction of teachers and with guidance from Habitat, this pilot program will provide students with a hands-on learning experience over the course of the school year. By engaging youth, Habitat Grey Bruce and Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board will also be educating students about the need for affordable housing that has reached a crisis level and encouraging them to consider pursuing a career in a homebuilding trade. Further, this pilot program give students and faculty of St. Mary's High School the opportunity to take an active step of reconciliation with Saugeen First Nation.

The approximately 250 square foot Tiny Home will serve as an emergency shelter for individuals and small families. Once completed in the spring, the home will be site serviced and operated by Saugeen First Nation as part of their housing strategy. Through this program, students will be encouraged to consider pursuing a meaningful career in a homebuilding trade.

Habitat Grey Bruce hopes that this pilot program will lead to more homebuilding opportunities for students in other high schools across Grey and Bruce counties.

### **Quotes**

"Our community embraces the Tiny Home program and the opportunity it provides to educate youth about the trades in homebuilding and the need for affordable housing within Grey-Bruce. The youth will be the facilitators of change. We look forward to the relationship building, the knowledge to be learned, opportunity to grow together, and continued partnerships in our journey forward."

— **Conrad Ritchie-Chi Nimkii, Chief of Saugeen First Nation #29**

"The Tiny Home program is an innovative solution that will help meet Saugeen First Nation's housing need. We are thrilled that our partnership with Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board will provide students at St. Mary's High School the opportunity to learn and experience homebuilding first hand through this pilot program."

— **Greg Fryer, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce**

“We are excited to work on this important project with Habitat for Humanity that provides housing and shelter for those in need and provides our students with the opportunity to give back to our community. Our students learn about the importance of supporting our communities and at the same time some essential work skills.

**Gary O’Donnell— Director of Education, Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board**

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### **About Saugeen First Nation**

Saugeen First Nation is located on the shores of the beautiful Lake Huron at the base of the Bruce Peninsula and has a population of about 810 people.

The Saugeen Anishnaabek have been living in our home on and near the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula for as long as our history remembers. Through our treaties with the Crown, we agreed to share part of our land with people who have come from all around the world. As Anishnaabek people, we are subject to Anishnaabe law and are ever mindful of our duty to be stewards of our land.

The Ojibway heritage is rich in colour and expression. This is evident in dance, works of art and the hand made craft creations.

### **About Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board**

Committed to a vibrant Catholic education, we ensure quality learning experiences through community partnerships that nurture each student in body, mind and spirit and embrace the teachings of Christ, giving witness to Gospel values.

The Bruce-Grey Catholic DSB consists of eleven elementary schools and two secondary schools located in Grey and Bruce Counties in the province of Ontario.

### **About Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce**

People in our community and all over the world partner with Habitat for Humanity to build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and purchase their home with a no-down payment, no-interest mortgage with payments set at 25% of their income. Not only does this provide affordable housing for families in need, it also enables them to build assets, reduce their dependence on other forms of social assistance and contribute to the community through paying property taxes.

As an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity Canada, Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce has served 111 adults and 169 children since 1987. With our help, Habitat homeowners are given the opportunity to thrive, enabling them to build a better life for themselves and their children.

To learn more about how you can help create a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live visit our website [habitatgreybruce.ca](http://habitatgreybruce.ca).