

News Release

For Immediate Release

August 27, 2013

Affordable Housing Property Receives Building of the Year Award Calgary Residential Rental Association Names Alice Bissett Place, Building of the Year

Calgary, Alberta – Horizon Housing Society (HHS) will gather at Alice Bissett Place today, along with tenants, staff, volunteers and partners to celebrate the 114 unit apartment and townhouse complex being awarded Building of the Year (101+ units) by the Calgary Residential Rental Association (CRRA).

“Candidates were evaluated on several criteria including building upkeep and cleanliness, curb appeal, lighting, renovations and security,” said Heather Harke of the CRRA. “This award recognizes Alice Bissett Place as a property that is not only safe, secure and well maintained but also inspires a sense of pride and comfort among its tenants and demonstrates how affordable housing can have a positive impact on the community.”

The building benefits from two live-in building managers and operates on a mixed use tenant model, combining larger townhouse family dwellings with apartment style units. It boasts energy efficient solar panels, beautifully landscaped exterior and 12 fully accessible units. Development of Alice Bissett Place, which was completed in 2009, resulted from a joint venture partnership between the Calgary Home Builders Foundation, the Calgary Homeless Foundation and Horizon Housing Society. The Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta contributed \$12.3 million under the Canada-Alberta Affordable Housing program while the City of Calgary contributed a 60-year land lease valued at approximately \$2 million. David Bissett, along with his wife Leslie, donated \$2 million for the construction of the building.

“Winning this award, in competition with buildings operated by institutional and for-profit owners, serves as a testament that affordable housing really can operate at the highest standards,” says Kim O’Brien, Executive Director of HHS. “Our goal is to provide safe, secure housing to those in need and receiving recognition from the CRRA validates our idea that this is attainable.”

Photo and Interview Opportunity

An award celebration will take place today at 2:00pm. Media are invited to attend and interviews and photo opportunities will be available following the formal presentation.

Date: August 27, 2013

Time: 2:00pm

Place: Alice Bissett Place, 2990 – 17th Street SE



Media Contact

Arianne Brady
Marketing & Communications Manager
Horizon Housing Society
t: 403-297-1716
arianneb@horizonhousing.ab.ca

Heather Harke
Member Relations
Calgary Residential Rental Association
t: 403-265-6055
heather@crra.ca

About Horizon Housing Society

Horizon Housing Society is a not for profit organization providing affordable, integrated and supported homes to over 700 individuals in the city of Calgary. The Society serves tenants with a variety of special needs including mental illness, physical disability, families and seniors living below the poverty line and the working poor. Horizon Housing Society is one of nine proud Partners in the RESOLVE Campaign, which is a first-of-its-kind, community-driven fundraising Campaign aimed at creating a diverse mix of affordable rent-based housing units in Calgary. For more information, visit: www.horizonhousing.ab.ca

About the Calgary Residential Rental Association

The Calgary Residential Rental Association (CRRA) is a non-profit organization formed in 1959 and registered under the Societies Act of the Province of Alberta. Under the leadership of an elected volunteer Board of Directors, the CRRA provides a strong voice for the residential rental industry through appropriate representation and educational programs, resources and support services enhance professionalism within the industry. For more information visit: www.crra.ca