



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stepping Stones Crisis Society

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Stepping Stones Crisis Society Breaks Ground on New Facility

COLD LAKE - Stepping Stones Crisis Society breaks ground on a new facility. A small groundbreaking ceremony was held on July 19 and marks the beginning of the new building project for Stepping Stones' new facility.

The project will see an amalgamation of core programs and services combined under one facility, including emergency residential shelter program, second-stage housing program, community support services, and will see an expansion of services and supports available to survivors of abuse in the community. This building is the first step in streamlining the continuum of care for survivors fleeing abuse.

This new building will be a four-story, featuring approximately 50,000 square feet of mixed-use space offering more inclusive and accessible sheltering services, transitional housing, and will centralize supports for survivors of violence, reducing barriers to access such as reliable transportation. It will also increase community-facing spaces on the main floor, with a secure outdoor garden and play space. The project will be built near the existing and aging facility, and existing facilities will be operated to ensure emergency sheltering services and transitional housing supports are not disrupted.

"The need to build is as prevalent as ever. As the city and surrounding areas grew, so did our shelter, to support the increase in demand. Sadly, we have been unable to keep up with the limited spaces we have available," said Susan White, Executive Director of Stepping Stones Crisis Society. "Last year alone, we were unable to house 169 women and children who called looking for a bed. This is not acceptable, and it's one of the largest reasons we are building today. Domestic violence is a community issue, and we are grateful for this community's continued support as we embark on this new project."

Construction of this new building project will officially begin in July 2023, with completion estimated by December 2024. A grand opening is slated for early 2025.

About Stepping Stones Crisis Society

Stepping Stones Crisis Society (formerly Dr. Margaret Savage Crisis Centre) strives to work in the prevention of family violence through public awareness, outreach, and supports. The Society has been in operation since 1981, offering safe and secure shelter and supports to women and children in crisis, assisting individuals and families by providing resources and advocacy, and educating the public to create partnerships to prevent family violence and build stronger communities.

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