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MEDIA RELEASE

Homeward Trust to announce release of five-year community plan on housing & supports

Edmonton – Homeward Trust Edmonton and community partners will announce the release of the *Edmonton and Area Community Plan on Housing and Supports: 2011-2015* this evening at the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton. This is the third community plan on housing, homelessness and support services to be developed over the past decade, but is the first to include participation from community leagues and businesses, and the first to look at the region as a whole.

More than 350 individuals representing non-profit providers; three orders of government; private developers; communities and people in need contributed to the plan's year-long development. Goals in the Community Plan include ensuring: enough supply of affordable housing; enough supportive units for people most in need; services are available throughout the city for early intervention and prevention and solutions are developed collaboratively at a systems level.

"Both the Alberta Government and the City of Edmonton's 10 Year Plans to End Homelessness were significant game-changers, introducing coordinated planning and unprecedented investment to ensure people in our city have a place to call home," said Susan McGee, Executive Director of Homeward Trust. "The Community Plan brings these plans together with other strategies at the local and regional level. It builds on elements such as involvement of communities in decision-making, engagement of the business sector and capitalizing on what we have learned after three years of the 10-year plans".

The *Edmonton and Area Community Plan on Housing and Supports: 2011-2015* was funded by the Government of Canada's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS).

"Our government is giving a hand-up to Canadians with housing needs and is helping to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty," said James Rajotte, Member of Parliament for Edmonton—Leduc, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development. "Having a plan is an essential step towards reducing and preventing homelessness in Edmonton. We are pleased to participate in this important initiative."

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About Homeward Trust Edmonton

Homeward Trust Edmonton is a not for profit organization that uses a community-based approach toward the goal of ending homelessness in Edmonton. Our primary role is to coordinate response to housing needs by working together with local agencies and all orders of government.