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edmonton

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Homeward Trust Edmonton to launch film premiere of *Perspectives on the Housing First Program by Indigenous Participants***

**Edmonton, June 27, 2012** – Homeward Trust Edmonton will launch the film premiere of *Perspectives on the Housing First Program by Indigenous Participants* tonight at the Citadel Theatre. The film is an adaptation of a play by the same name, written by local playwright, Matthew MacKenzie. *Perspectives on the Housing First Program by Indigenous Participants* explores the challenges faced when transitioning out of homelessness and into permanent housing through the Housing First Support Program in Edmonton. This is the first time the film will be shown.

Both the play and film are based on a comprehensive research report, which was conducted by the Blue Quills First Nations College. Twenty five indigenous recipients of Homeward Trust Edmonton's Housing First Support Program were invited to share their perspectives on the program. Participants were current or former recipients of the Housing First Support Program, and were selected by Homeward Trust front-line staff. The research participants were interviewed from December, 2010 – March, 2011. Upon completion of the interviews, their stories were compiled into a research report, which formed the basis of the play and film.

"Homeward Trust Edmonton was proud to partner with the Blue Quills First Nations College for this project," said Susan McGee, executive director of Homeward Trust Edmonton. "The film lends a voice to our diverse indigenous community and sheds light on some of the unique challenges they face when securing housing."

Dr. Ralph Bodor, an associate professor from the University of Calgary, led the Blue Quills First Nations College research team throughout the course of the project.

"An indigenous research approach creates space to honour the voice and wisdom of each person who is touched by the issue in some way," said Dr. Bodor. "This project invited all participants to be both learners and teachers for each other within a community of support to explore homelessness by those who experience it and those who help."

*Perspectives on the Housing First Program by Indigenous Participants* will be shown at 7:00 p.m. at Zeidler Hall, Citadel Theatre. Community members are welcome to attend.

**For more information:**

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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.*