



ABORIGINAL FAMILY APPROVED FOR A HABITAT HOME!

For some time now Gignul has been working closely with Habitat for Humanity promoting homeownership as a means of breaking the cycle of poverty. Habitat's purpose is to build simple, decent, affordable homes for low income working families and Gignul's role is to create an awareness of Habitat's program within the Aboriginal community in the national capital region and to co host introductory information meetings of potential applicants to the program. The program is open to working moderate to low income Aboriginal families.

What happens should your application to Habitat be approved?

If your application is approved you will have an opportunity to receive assistance to purchase a Habitat built home. What this will mean is that you will become a home owner. The cost of your home will be covered by an interest free mortgage provided by Habitat. Once the home is purchased you will be responsible for home repairs and upkeep including utility bills such as water, hydro, gas, telephone and cable. Homes will include a fridge and stove. A washer and dryer can be provided at cost.

This year Habitat have identified a local Aboriginal family it will work with on their way to becoming homeowners.

Like most things in life there are some conditions that applicants must meet. Families may be on the waiting list for some time (up to 24 months) ; they must accept to work with family partners assigned by Habitat; selected applicants must contribute 500 hours of "sweat equity" to help build their home (65% of the sweat equity must be provided prior to move in), approved applicants must serve as a Habitat "Ambassador" and they must remain qualified for a home until it is time for them to move in.

The cost of a fully mortgaged property over the life of the mortgage doubles the eventual cost of the home. Therefore getting approved under Habitat's program is like purchasing a home at half the cost.

Should this opportunity be of interest to you I personally invite you to contact Gignul's office at 396 MacLaren (613) 232-0016 and our staff will provide further insight to the program and make sure that you are connected with Habitat officials.

Thank you for your interest!

Jim Lanigan, President GNPHC