

## ***Retired York Region Chief Planner joins Habitat for Humanity GTA's Board of Directors***

Toronto, Ontario, May 29, 2018 -- Habitat for Humanity Greater Toronto Area (Habitat GTA) announced at their annual general meeting on May 15, the appointment of one new board member, Valerie A. Shuttleworth, retired Chief Planner for York Region, and named returning board member, Christine Pacini, Co-founder and Partner of SHS Consulting, Chair of their volunteer Board of Directors. Under the Board's leadership over the last five years, the organization has built 104 homes for working, lower-income families in the GTA bringing their total to over 360 Habitat homes built to date. Although the organization has seen a steady increase in their build activity across the City of Toronto and the Region of Peel, the same cannot be said for York Region.

"In the last five years, we have experienced excellent growth in the number of builds in Brampton, Caledon, and Toronto, but had less success in York Region," said Ene Underwood, CEO of Habitat GTA. "According to a 2016 York Region Census Release Report, 52 per cent of renter households are spending 30 per cent or more on housing – the highest in the GTHA. We are confident that Valerie's 35 years of experience in public sector planning and as York Region's Chief Planner will help us build a sustainable long-term land pipeline so we can help more families living in the region have a decent, affordable place to call home."

"Valerie brings valuable skills to a very strong regional board," said Christine Pacini, Chair of Habitat for Humanity GTA and former Board Director for legacy affiliate Habitat York Region. "Habitat GTA has a track record of building homes for lower-income families in York Region for nearly 9 years now, and we welcome Valerie to our Board of Directors, to help us develop new momentum in providing affordable homeownership for more lower-income families in York Region."

Habitat for Humanity GTA would like to thank Dennis Moir, past chair, who leaves the board having been a member since 2016.

For a complete list of Habitat for Humanity GTA's Board, visit [habitatgta.ca/](http://habitatgta.ca/)

**For more information or media requests, please contact:**



Building in  
Brampton, Caledon,  
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### ***About Habitat for Humanity Greater Toronto Area***

In 2014, Habitat for Humanity Brampton/Caledon, Toronto, and York Region, amalgamated to create Habitat for Humanity Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Habitat for Humanity GTA is a nonprofit housing organization working toward a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. We mobilize communities to help working, lower income families build strength, stability, and self-reliance through affordable homeownership. With the help of volunteers, donors, and community partners, we have built more than 360 homes for families, including over 1,300 children, in need of safe, decent, and affordable housing. In support of our homebuilding, we operate retail home improvement stores called Habitat ReStore. Proceeds from sales help cover the cost to build homes for families. For more information, visit [www.habitatgta.ca](http://www.habitatgta.ca).