



For Immediate Release

Founder and President of Options for Homes wins City Builder Award, appoints new CEO

**TORONTO, December 11, 2015** – Options for Homes founder and President, Mike Labbé, was presented with the City Builder Award at the Urban Leadership Awards hosted by the Canadian Urban Institute. This award comes hot on the heels of Labbé’s win of Social Entrepreneur of the Year from Ernst and Young, and is the 17<sup>th</sup> honour given to Labbé and his successful affordable ownership housing model.

Options for Homes is Canada’s largest non-profit affordable ownership delivery agency; a social enterprise model that has provided homes for over 6500 Canadians across the country. Now, the organization is expanding with Labbé at the helm of Options International. Homes are under construction in Cameroon, Africa and are in the development stage in Kenya, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In Toronto, Options has appointed a new CEO to support ambitious local and Canadian growth initiatives.

Heather Tremain, former principal of Urban Fabric Group and ReSource Rethinking Building and a leader in green building and affordable housing, was imported from Vancouver to head up operations at Options in Toronto. “It is my pleasure to be passing the torch to Heather Tremain,” says Labbé. “She is exactly the right person to continue building on our success while bringing fresh ideas and new capacity to help us increase our production to 1000 new units per year by 2017 through partnerships with all levels of government.”

Tremain is working on delivering 525 units of affordable ownership at two developments in Scarborough and East York that will move into construction in early 2016. A new project is just getting started at Weston and Lawrence, close to Artscape’s Weston Hub, along with the new Carlton Street Condos at Sherbourne and Carlton delivering another combined 500 units of affordable housing, and Option’s first project in the downtown core.

“I am thrilled to be part of Options for Homes. Mike had created a model that makes home ownership a possibility for moderate-income individuals and families. I look forward to partnering with the City, land owners and other non-profit housing organizations to scale up the delivery of affordable ownership units – and making our region a showcase for the provision of appropriate, affordable housing,” says Tremain.

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**Options for Homes** is Canada's largest delivery agent of affordable home ownership. Now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year, it creates ownership opportunities for households with incomes as low as \$25,000.00 per year. From the first development in Toronto's Distillery District, to a new development under construction in Cameroon, Africa, Options organizations have created homes for over 6500 households using a unique housing model. Options Toronto is about to break ground on two new projects that together will enable 525 families to own their own homes. [www.optionsforhomes.ca](http://www.optionsforhomes.ca)