



First Aboriginal Ground Blessing Ceremony performed at Habitat build site *PCL Constructors Canada Inc.—the Aboriginal Build Home Sponsor donating funding, materials and labour.*

Winnipeg, MB, September 23, 2011 – The Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg (HFHW) build site at 612 Talbot Avenue featured its first Aboriginal Ground Blessing Ceremony today. Habitat homeowners Dave and Cora were present for the proceedings, along with Habitat staff and members of PCL Constructors Canada as an Elder performed the traditional blessing of Mother Earth. The ceremony is a new optional offering by Habitat Winnipeg to all First Nation Habitat homeowners.

“Our sustainable building practices and extremely energy efficient homes reduce the impact on the environment making this ceremony a natural progression of respecting the land on which we build,” says Sandy Hopkins, Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg CEO.

PCL Constructors Canada has donated \$100,000 to fund this Habitat home while also committing to provide skilled labour and building materials, raising the total value of PCL’s contribution to the project to nearly \$200,000. Earlier this year, PCL Constructors Canada pledged \$1 million over two-years to Habitat for Humanity International to build homes and provide employee volunteer hours in communities where PCL has operational offices in both Canada and the United States.

As the Habitat Aboriginal Home Sponsor, PCL Constructors Canada is proud to not only fund the home, but to offer many of its resources to build it from start to finish. “We have worked in many aboriginal communities with 20 percent of our hourly work force consisting of people of First Nation, Metis and Inuit decent, so we are proud to involve our many subcontractors to make this home a reality for this fine family,” says Sean Barnes, PCL’s district manager in Winnipeg.

The former home on Talbot Avenue was recently demolished with the HFHW construction crew removing the old walls and floor that cleared the way for the ceremony. PCL Constructors Canada will commence working soon after completion of the foundation by coordinating the scheduling of subcontractors and materials with Habitat. “PCL’s contribution to the build is outstanding, and a first of its kind with their involvement that includes not only home sponsorship, but the supplying of materials and labour through their subcontractors to help complete this home. We are overwhelmed by the extent of their support on this project,” says Hopkins.

An increasing number of Habitat for Humanity organizations are sponsoring aboriginal builds across the country since the inception of Habitat Canada’s National Aboriginal Housing Program in 2007. Habitat’s no down payment, interest-free mortgages have enabled 22 aboriginal families in Winnipeg to purchase their own home by end of 2011. Like all Habitat homeowners, the families will have completed 350-500 hours of ‘sweat equity’ as part of their partnership agreement with Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg.

About PCL family of companies: www.pcl.com

About Habitat for Humanity Canada: www.habitat.ca

About Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg: www.habitat.mb.ca

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