



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GEF Receives Approval and Funding from The City of Edmonton Council to go forward with Mill Woods Sakaw Site**

Edmonton, AB – July 8, 2015 – The City of Edmonton Council passed some very positive motions for the proposed GEF Mill Woods Sakaw seniors' housing project. The City will sell the Sakaw site to GEF for a market value of \$2.5 million and provide a grant of \$6.6 million from the City's Cornerstones program to GEF for the Sakaw project.

The Mill Woods Sakaw site is a surplus school site which has been re-zoned for seniors' housing. The development will be open to qualified seniors in the community and will provide a variety of affordable, secure housing options. The seniors' housing community will be made up of 70 lodge units, 60 one-bedroom apartments and 30 two-bedroom apartments.

GEF and the City of Edmonton held three community consultations at the Millhurst Community League; in May, September and November of 2014. The community had an opportunity to view three different proposed architectural designs and give their feedback as to their preferred choice. The new conceptual design was then created, incorporating the community's feedback and was showcased at the November meeting to all the community members that had been engaged in the design process.

The number of seniors in Edmonton will double in the next ten years. With this increase in the seniors' demographic, there is also a serious need for affordable seniors' housing in our communities. At our community consultations, we were privileged to meet seniors that had spent their whole lives in the Mill Woods neighbourhood and expressed their sincere desire to be able to stay in the community that they helped build.

We are grateful to the government for this funding and the affordable homes it will provide for seniors in the Mill Woods community. We look forward to working with the government in the future to ensure that we meet the needs of the growing seniors' population in all of Edmonton's communities.

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***GEF Seniors' Housing is a not-for-profit registered charity. We are the largest provider of subsidized seniors' housing in Alberta, with approximately 3400 Edmonton senior citizens calling GEF home. Our mission is to provide friendly, affordable, secure homes and services for seniors in our Edmonton communities.***