



## Lauderdale Homes Redevelopment Update

We are moving ahead with redevelopment of Lauderdale Homes.

GEF Seniors Housing was **approved for funding** from the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), under its Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI).

Lauderdale Homes will be redeveloped into Lauderdale Terrace, and the new complex will feature two buildings with a total of 37 new subsidized housing units for seniors 65 years and older.

“We are thrilled that the Lauderdale Homes redevelopment project has been chosen to receive RHI funding from CMHC,” says GEF’s CEO, Raymond Swonek. “This funding means we will be able to offer more affordable housing to more low-income seniors in Edmonton **much sooner** than we had originally hoped. This funding helps us further our Vision of positively influencing seniors’ quality of life, as this project is seniors-friendly, pet-friendly and environmentally-friendly.”

Lauderdale Terrace will contain a three-storey, 27-unit apartment-style building and a single-level building with 10 row-style units. There will be a lovely courtyard in between the two buildings.

The 10 row-style units will be constructed first, using modular housing. Each unit is assembled off site, then transported onto the site and installed in a few days. This type of construction is better for the neighbourhood as there is less overall construction-related noise and potential for debris. **The row-style units are planned to be move-in ready by the beginning of September 2021. The three-storey building is expected to be completed in March 2022.**

**We are now accepting applications for Lauderdale Terrace.** If you or someone you know is interested in living in one of the new units, visit our website at [www.gef.org](http://www.gef.org) to download, complete and submit a housing application form and send it in. If approved, you will be placed on the waiting list. You can also find out more about Lauderdale, including our recent media announcement, by clicking on the **NEW! Lauderdale Terrace** feature box from our home page.



## Time for a change

With those words, Doug Kitlar, GEF’s Director of Facility Management, “officially” began his retirement at the end of January 2021.

“Working at GEF for the last 15 years with all of you has been one of the most impacting and positively memorable phases of my life. I will truly miss all of you,” said Doug. “You make such a difference in the lives of the thousands of seniors we serve and that makes me proud to have worked here.”

It’s hard to believe how fast 15 years can go, and Doug will surely be missed. He says that he will still be involved with the Lauderdale Terrace redevelopment though – “the fun stuff,” as he calls it.

When Doug announced his pending retirement last fall, that kicked off a Canada-wide search for his successor. We were so pleased to be able to welcome **Keith Day** to GEF in mid-January. He already feels like part of the GEF family.

Keith has more than 20 years of international experience in Construction, HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) Commissioning and Facilities Management, having worked on some of the most iconic projects worldwide, like the Strata Tower in London, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai and the Seoul Finance Center in South Korea. He is also active in several professional associations.

While Keith and his family moved to Edmonton from Halifax, he is no stranger to the Prairies, or our chilly winters! He and his family used to live in Calgary, so Keith views his move to Edmonton as a homecoming back to his Alberta roots.

He is excited about applying his skills and experience in Facility Management to improve the lives and homes of the seniors in our buildings. Keith also says GEF’s values of Respect, Integrity, Well Being, and Accountability are well in alignment with his own personal values.



Doug Kitlar, above  
Keith Day, right





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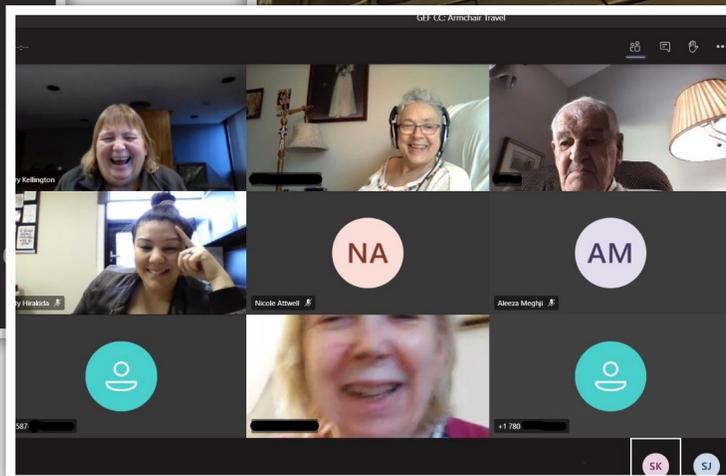
## GEF Community Connect

As we continue to live and work in the environment of the pandemic, it is challenging to be isolated from family and friends. While working with seniors, it's easy to recognize times are challenging for them as well.

Earlier this year, GEF launched a platform of virtual programming called **GEF Community Connect**. It facilitates activity and wellness programming led by our Activity and Wellness Staff and Outreach Support Workers. There are activities offered such as exercises, armchair travel and trivia. Recently, we added two new sessions, led by community volunteers: pet lovers and Bible study. Our Outreach Support Workers are providing practical support through information sessions, and emotional support through our virtual peer group.

Seniors are able to join programs by using their tablet, or computer and connect with video, but they can also join by phoning in and just listening. This provides easy access to all, regardless of their technological skill level. All of our residents and tenants receive a copy of the GEF Community Connect calendar at the beginning of each month. It has been a great thing to see seniors living in our communities connect from various sites! These photos display our first few virtual activities, where we had a combination of call-ins and people connecting by video.

Since we work in the homes where our seniors live, it is easy to identify those seniors who want more connection. This is a wonderful option for any of our seniors who are feeling isolated. We are excited to work together to support our seniors with this new opportunity.



## COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout

In February, Alberta Health Services (AHS) started the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine to seniors in our lodge communities and some of our apartment communities.

By now, many of our tenants, residents and staff have received their first dose of the vaccine and some are even fully immunized. You can see by the photos that our seniors were very excited to participate in the vaccine clinics!

As we all know, COVID-19 can have serious repercussions, and there is no way to know how it will affect you. If you get sick, you could spread the disease to friends, family and others around you.

The vaccine works by making our immune system stronger. It builds antibodies to help prevent diseases. Immunization is safe and it's much safer to get immunized than to get COVID-19. The vaccine is important because we are able to protect ourselves and those around us. But it is also important because not everyone can get vaccinated due to age, illness or certain allergies. These people depend on us to be vaccinated to ensure they can also be safe from this disease.

We encourage all of our friends and family of GEF to follow public health restrictions, especially when visiting one of our lodge or apartment sites. **Wearing masks, physical distancing and getting the vaccine** when it's your turn are three of the best ways we all can reduce our chances of being exposed to the virus or spreading it to others. Please also continue to **wash your hands often with soap and water** for at least 20 seconds at a time, or use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.

**Thank you for doing your part to keep everyone safe and healthy!**



## We welcome your feedback!

Do you have a question about GEF Seniors Housing, or a suggestion for a topic you'd like to see covered in a future issue of Community Connections? Please let us know: [communications@gef.org](mailto:communications@gef.org)

## Connect with GEF

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