

Media Statement

Build A Dream Applauds Federal Government's Housing Plan and Investments in Skilled Trades

Windsor – April 12, 2024 – Build a Dream, a leading advocate for empowering women and youth, commends the federal government's ambitious housing plan, *Solving the housing crisis: Canada's Housing Plan*.

Build a Dream recognizes the profound impact of this initiative on the skilled trades industry, as increased home construction demands a growing workforce of skilled tradespeople. "We applaud the federal government's comprehensive approach to addressing the housing crisis in Canada," said **Nour Hachem, President and Founder of Build a Dream**. "By investing in housing infrastructure and expanding affordable housing initiatives, the government is not only creating homes but also fostering job opportunities in the skilled trades sector."

Build a Dream particularly welcomes the government's focus on supporting the skilled trades workforce through various measures outlined in the housing plan:

- **\$90 Million for the Apprenticeship Service:** This investment will create apprenticeship opportunities, providing essential training and recruitment pathways for the next generation of skilled trades workers.
- **\$10 Million for the Skilled Trades Awareness and Readiness Program:** By encouraging high school students to explore the skilled trades, this program will contribute to filling the workforce gap and creating more opportunities for skilled trades careers.

Build a Dream underscores the value of making the skilled trades more inclusive, particularly by increasing the participation of women. "Empowering women in the skilled trades is not only a matter of equity but also an essential strategy for addressing labour shortages," stated **Hachem**. "By creating inclusive work environments and providing necessary support, we can attract and retain a diverse workforce, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the trades."

Build a Dream looks forward to collaborating with community partners on Canada's Housing Plan and advocating with local Windsor-Tecumseh MP Irek Kusmierczyk, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Employment, Workforce Development and Official Languages, for increased representation of women in the skilled trades.

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