

First Place showhome opens in city's northeast

Ribbon-cutting and showhome tours marked the official opening of the City of Edmonton's latest First Place housing development, in the northeast neighbourhood of Casselman.

"The City's First Place program continues to meet a critical need," Ward 4 Councillor Ed Gibbons said. "It provides a way for young families and professionals to buy their first home in an increasingly hot housing market, and helps make Edmonton a place where there's housing choice for everyone."



The City has partnered with builders to create housing opportunities for first-time buyers on surplus school sites across Edmonton. Casselman follows Caernarvon, Greenview, Canon Ridge and Tawa in having First Place homes completed. A Kernohan development will be ready for sales soon, while Bears paw's First Place homes are in the development permit stage with construction expected to start next spring. The preliminary process of sharing information and engaging neighbours with design and "fit" of the new homes will soon begin or is under way in Haddow and Larkspur.

Casselman's First Place townhouses offer the choice of two or three bedrooms, and drive-under or surface parking. Of the 49 units on the 1.05 hectare site, sales agreements for 23 have been approved by the City already.

First Place homes advance the City's strategy to ensure a diversity of housing choices for all at a time of rapid economic and population expansion. The homes are market priced, with a five-year deferral on the land portion of the mortgage, making them more attainable for people who have never owned a home in Alberta and who have a household income of no more than \$117,000 a year.

In addition to the First Place program, eight surplus school sites have been approved for new seniors housing. The city is also engaging with residents to explore additional housing opportunities on nine sites. Signage is being installed on all surplus sites to ensure residents are aware of plans for their neighbourhood.

More information is available at edmonton.ca/surplusschools.

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