

END HOMELESSNESS

ST. JOHN'S **HomeConnect**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

END HOMELESSNESS ST. JOHN'S LAUNCHES "HomeConnect"

[St. John's, NL, April 28, 2020] As a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, End Homelessness St. John's has launched the HomeConnect program ahead of schedule. HomeConnect is an online housing inventory designed to enable successful tenancies by identifying and reducing the barriers to rental housing stability for our most vulnerable neighbours.

"It has never been more critical for our neighbours to have safe, secure housing. With HomeConnect, End Homelessness St. John's is working with landlords and community agencies to build strong, lasting relationships towards housing stability," says Doug Pawson, Executive Director of EHSJ. "We know that the best way to stay safe during the COVID-19 pandemic is to stay home. With HomeConnect, we are ensuring more of our neighbours are able to do just that."

End Homelessness St. John's is looking for committed landlords with one-bedroom/bachelor vacancies to join the HomeConnect Program. EHSJ is offering a \$500 signing bonus for the first 50 landlords who qualify and sign up during the month of May.

HomeConnect is a joint commitment between tenants, landlords, and homeless-serving agencies to provide the connections, tools and resources that enable successful tenancies.

HomeConnect offers a number of benefits to landlords over the private market. These include guaranteed rent payments, reduced vacancies and limited turnover, as well as a landlord protection fund that will cover certain damages. In addition to these benefits, units are inspected regularly by program staff, landlords have a designated point of contact they can work with to resolve any conflicts that arise, up to and including rehousing of tenants when needed.

"Given that St. John's has a rental market vacancy rate of around 7%, HomeConnect allows landlords access to a pool of potential tenants who are ready to move in. As a partner in the HomeConnect program, landlords will have reduced vacancy rates while saving the time and money of advertising a vacant unit," says Pawson.

For more information visit:

homeconnect.wecanendit.com

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About End Homelessness St. John's

End Homelessness St. John's exists to prevent and end homelessness. Working collaboratively with community stakeholders, EHSJ is leading the implementation of the St. John's Community Plan to End Homelessness. Through the continuation of coordinated system-wide planning and EHSJ's leadership, St. John's will become the next community in Canada to end homelessness.

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