

Press Release:

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**Celebrating the Green Phoenix high rise retrofit
Phase 2 of the Green Phoenix project
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
1355 King St. W. / 171 Dunn Ave.**

The Parkdale neighbourhood is home to a unique new project: a rare example of affordable housing designed with state-of-the-art green building. The current phase of the **Green Phoenix** project just completed is a \$3.6 million high rise retrofit featuring a geo-thermal heating/cooling system, a 40-foot wall of solar panels, an energy efficient building envelope for the existing 137-unit apartment tower, and improved access to community spaces.

The Parkdale United Church Foundation, PUCF, has used its reserves and partnerships with other organizations to complete the retrofit. Other key partners include the City of Toronto's Sustainable Energy Fund (SEF) and Infrastructure Ontario, who are together providing long-term financing totaling \$2,265,000. In addition, the Trillium Foundation is contributing a \$100,000 grant towards the improvement of public spaces and environmental conditions in the building.

"I am so pleased to see retrofits that are green, rather than brand new developments that are simply continuing to take over new land except with a green emphasis. Good for you." - **David Suzuki, environmentalist**

When completed, Green Phoenix will include 21 new affordable housing units. Ten of these have been added by the renovation of the historic Shalom House located at 1339 King Street West in 2007. The remaining 11 are planned in a new addition to the tower. Besides the benefits of the high-rise retrofit, the new housing is a key part of the plan, as the number of low income people requiring affordable housing continues to grow at an alarming rate - an ever widening gap with individuals and families in the City of Toronto. The City currently has a waiting list of more than 70,000 families and 200,000 individuals.

"In the brave new world of Canada with no national housing policy, the Green Phoenix Project shows us the way forward - how to provide affordable housing in an environmentally responsible way." - **Margaret Atwood, author**

"This is an important contribution to the affordable housing stock in our community, and I congratulate the Parkdale United Church and its government partners for their work in providing these new homes where we can house people in an environmentally sustainable way." **Gord Perks, Toronto City Councillor**

Parkdale United Church Foundation is a registered charitable non-profit housing provider dedicated to improving the lives of those who are less fortunate through the provision of affordable housing under its Green Phoenix Project. The properties are maintained and operated by the Foundation.

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