

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

August 17, 2021

**Habitat for Humanity Greater Ottawa Welcomes Mushtaq Kazani
As New Chief Executive Officer**

OTTAWA, ON (August 17, 2020) Habitat for Humanity Greater Ottawa is pleased to announce that Mushtaq Kazani will be joining the organization as Chief Executive Officer effective September 7, 2021. Kazani has extensive experience in non-profit management and an exceptional track record working with community organizations.

Mushtaq Kazani's commitment to building community has been evident throughout his career, and he has strong organizational and change-management skills. He is a passionate, strategic leader and joins Habitat Greater Ottawa as it is poised to increase its impact in the community and increase engagement with local families.

"Habitat Greater Ottawa is an amazing organization with such a rich history of positively impacting so many families," said Kazani. "I am incredibly excited to be joining this great organization. The work is so important for the families and the community, and it is my privilege to be a part of it."

Mushtaq previously worked within the Aga Khan Development Network where he helped to transform the Ismaili Tariqah and Religious Education Board (ITREB), a community-based education organization. He specialized in implementing client-oriented quality programs, applying results-based monitoring/evaluation and grew funding multi-fold.

He has also managed over 1,000 education centres and introduced innovative building methods in the construction of 50 new centres, and implemented integrated support services across finance, IT, HR, governance and other strategic areas. He is highly experienced in strategic and project management, achieving results along with high employee engagement, inspiring employees to achieve exponential growth.

Mushtaq is an internationally trained Accountant (PwC) and completed the Advanced Management Program with IESE Business School (Spain), as well as in Marketing from the Chartered Institute of Marketing (UK), and in education from Harvard Graduate School of Education (United States).

He serves on several non-profit Boards including the KARA Family Resource Centre, Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations and ITREB Canada.

"We are excited by the depth of experience and passion that Mushtaq will bring to the organization," says Gavin Liddy, Board Chair. "Mushtaq is a dynamic and strategic leader who will help us to grow the number of families we partner with in our community."

Departing CEO Alexis Ashworth shared, "I'm delighted that the Board has selected a candidate of Mushtaq's caliber who will bring diverse experience and fresh ideas to the role. A change in leadership can be

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invigorating for an organization, and I'm confident that Habitat Greater Ottawa will grow and thrive in this new chapter."

The Board would like to thank Alexis for her amazing contributions to Habitat Greater Ottawa during her time as CEO. Most recently, her dedication, vision and focus were instrumental in managing the affiliate through the pandemic. Her leadership and commitment to community innovation over the past seven years have left the organization stronger, moving the affiliate from a builder of single-family homes to a developer of communities.

"I look forward to working with the Board and the Habitat Greater Ottawa team," says Kazani, "I also look forward to meeting our donors, sponsors, volunteers and community partners. The organization has a strong and established presence in the community with the potential for continued growth in expanding partnerships, builds and programs to provide housing that is more accessible and affordable for local families."

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For more information, or to arrange an interview please contact:

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About us

With the help of local Habitat families, donors, community partners and volunteers, Habitat for Humanity Greater Ottawa builds affordable homes that provide a solid foundation for local families.

Habitat Greater Ottawa's homeownership program offers more than just housing; it sets families up to be successful homeowners who are invested in their homes and in their community. The benefits of owning a long-term stable Habitat home are many. They include reduced reliance on social housing and food banks, better educational, financial and employment outcomes and improved health and overall wellbeing for families.

With over 55,000 Ottawa households living on low income, and with a 5-year average wait time to access social housing in our city, the need for affordable housing is only growing. Over the past three years, Habitat Greater Ottawa has transitioned from a builder of single-family homes to a developer of communities. By increasing the number of homes we build, we can provide more families with the opportunity to thrive. Learn more at www.habitatgo.ca.

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