

News Release: November 6, 2018

## **Saskatchewan's second completed cohousing project pursues Passive House Certification**

Radiance Cohousing will be opening its doors to the public on Saturday, November 10. Residents and the media are invited to tour Saskatchewan's second completed cohousing project. Radiance Cohousing is also on track to becoming Canada's first cohousing development to achieve Passive House certification, which will be an outstanding achievement in our community.

Tours of Radiance Cohousing will be taking place as part of International Passive House Days, an event where Passive House owners, builders, and designers from around the world give others the chance to experience the benefits of these buildings first hand.

Tours will be offered on Saturday, November 10 at 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, and 4:00pm. Additional tours can be arranged upon request. Radiance Cohousing is located in Saskatoon at 475 Avenue L South.

Elected officials will attend a private tour on Friday, November 9, including:

- MLA for Saskatoon Riversdale, Danielle Chartier
- MP for Saskatoon West, Sheri Benson
- City Councillor for Ward 2, Hilary Gough

"This project has been about partnerships and collaboration. Creating community and living sustainably can be best achieved by working together on initiatives that go beyond what we're capable of on our own. This project was a collective effort and it showcases what's possible in terms of sustainable housing in cold-climate settings." – Michael Nemeth, Co-Founder of Radiance Cohousing

"Radiance Cohousing grew from a relatively simple idea: to create quality homes that build community and respond to a changing climate. What makes our project unique is that it combines the strong community values of cohousing with the environmental approaches of Passive House, sustainable landscaping, renewable energy, and sustainable transportation. These elements make Radiance Cohousing a one-of-a-kind project in Canada." – Shannon Dyck, Co-Founder of Radiance Cohousing

### **What is Cohousing?**

Cohousing ("collaborative housing") is a unique development approach whereby a group of people form a development company in order to build their own housing complex. Cohousing is led and managed by the future homeowners, which ensures that the end result is something that meets the needs of the people who will be living there. Once cohousing projects are built, the housing model provides a highly collaborative and cooperative living environment. While the design of cohousing developments vary, every project combines the privacy and comfort of having individual homes, with the community and social benefits of having close knit neighbours and shared amenities.

The number of cohousing projects in Canada is growing. Not only is it a repeatable development model, but it accommodates various household structures and provides community to those who are seeking it. It appeals to a diversity of people and fills a gap in the current housing market.

### **What is Passive House?**

Passive House is an international building standard that requires a building to achieve a high level of energy efficiency. It is an approach that works well in our prairie climate and is gaining traction in

Canada and abroad. Hundreds of projects have been completed in North America alone, and the approach has been established as one of the most energy-efficient and economically viable design methods currently available. For example, the homes at Radiance Cohousing will use 90% less space heating than regular Canadian homes and do not require furnaces. This is achieved through super insulation, air tightness, proper ventilation, and good quality south-facing windows.

Passive House buildings are quiet, meet high air quality standards, and maintain comfortable temperatures and humidity levels. They also significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as provide a lower cost of living because monthly utility payments are so low.

**Renewable Rides:**

The members of Radiance Cohousing are thrilled to host the SES Solar Co-operative's largest solar array to date (the 126 solar panels generate 37.8 kilowatts of power), as well as one of the Saskatoon Carshare Co-operative's (SCC) electric vehicles. The solar panels and shared electric car are being provided through the Renewable Rides initiative, which is the first program of its kind in Canada that powers an electric car-share program with 100% solar energy. One of the SCC's five new electric vehicles is now parked in Radiance Cohousing's visitor parking area and is available to any community member who joins the SCC.

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To learn more about Radiance Cohousing, please visit [www.radiancecohousing.ca](http://www.radiancecohousing.ca) or contact:

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