

Legacy on 5th: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the name of the building and what is its meaning?

Legacy on 5th is just that – a gift built by those who care enough to turn from the busy-ness of their own lives to focus on the needs of others. It's a reference to the legacy of the RESOLVE Campaign and its many generous donors. It is also an invitation to residents and supporters as an inspiration to build their own legacy. The name was submitted by Friney Labranche, Calgary Homeless Foundation staff member, and one of many individuals who have benefited from the Bissett family's legacy of giving in Calgary.

Q: Who funded Legacy on 5th?

Legacy on 5th was made possible through the commitment of the Government of Canada (through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), support from the City of Calgary through a non-market land disposition, and the generous commitment of philanthropic donors through the RESOLVE Campaign, largely David and Leslie Bissett, with a donation of nearly \$8 million towards the affordable housing tower.

Q: Who will live at Legacy on 5th?

HomeSpace Society, the building developer, owner and manager, has partnered with social-service agencies to select and support 74 previously homeless or at-risk Calgarians within the demographics they serve. The agencies are:

- Calgary Seniors' Resource society, which will provide supports for vulnerable seniors,
- Autism Calgary, in partnership with Sinneave Family Foundation and Autism Asperger Friendship Society, which will provide supports for residents on the autism spectrum, and
- New Age Services, which will provide supports for residents with cognitive challenges.

Q: Can you describe the suites in Legacy on 5th?

Legacy on 5th is a nine-storey, 74-unit, permanent affordable housing apartment. There are 60 one-bedroom units and 14 bachelor units. 10 per cent of the units are barrier free suites. As the first midrise concrete build for HomeSpace Society, this is a flagship build and a potential model for future enterprises of this scope. There are design elements to increase resident integration, such as communal and amenity space within the building, as well as meeting rooms for support services and offices for staff.

Q: What supports will be provided for the residents of Legacy on 5th?

Calgary Seniors' Resource Society supports seniors in living independently in our community to the greatest extent possible by combining social work and volunteer programs that work in conjunction with each other, offering crisis and long-term support. In addition to social work support with critical needs like housing, pension



and benefit applications, Calgary Seniors also provides companionship and social support through volunteer programs like Friendly Visiting, Escorted Transportation, Pet Assist, and Shopping Companion.

Autism Calgary, in partnership with Autism Asperger Friendship Society and Sinneave Family Foundation, supports individuals on the autism spectrum to build skills of independence and to thrive as engaged and valued members of the community.

New Age Services (NAS Inc.) helps adults with cognitive challenges live full and valued lives by providing high-quality support tailored to their individual needs. They provide accessible programs, assistance with day-to-day tasks, and safe and supportive forever homes.

Q: What is the current need in Calgary for affordable rental housing like Legacy on 5th?

According to the 2018 Point-in-Time Count of Homelessness, there are 2,911 Calgarians experiencing homelessness on any given day. Though homelessness in Calgary has been reduced by 32% per capita since 2008, Calgary is still the epicentre of homelessness in Alberta, with 51% of the province's total homeless population.

Calgary has a longstanding deficit of affordable housing: compared to 6% of households nationwide, only 3.6% of households in Calgary are supported by non-market housing. The city's economic downturn, exacerbated by COVID-19, has amplified existing challenges. To reach the 2016 national average, Calgary would need to add approximately 15,000 new affordable housing units. As the population grows, more than 100,000 households are forecast to be in housing need by 2025.

Responding to this need and housing individuals experiencing homelessness is not only the humane thing to do: it is fiscally responsible, with a return on investment of \$1.17-\$2.84 for every \$1 spent on housing people with supports.

Q: When does the building open?

Legacy on 5th broke ground in July 2019 and staggered resident move-ins started at the end of January 2021. A virtual celebration is taking place on February 16, 2021.

Q: When do residents move in?

Residents begin moving in at the end of January 2021. Legacy on 5th will use a phased move-in approach to allow each person to become comfortable and accustomed to their new home and support community-building with their fellow residents.



Q: What is the relationship between the RESOLVE Campaign, Calgary Homeless Foundation, HomeSpace Society and the social-service agency partners?

The RESOLVE Campaign officially concluded on March 31, 2018. It was a first-of-its-kind collaboration where nine agencies came together to raise the capital needed to create affordable rental housing with support services for up to 3,000 homeless and vulnerable Calgarians. David and Leslie Bissett are private Visionary donors who partnered with the Campaign to build affordable housing in Calgary.

Calgary Homeless Foundation was one of RESOLVE's nine partners who raised capital through the Campaign to support its housing collaborator, HomeSpace Society, in the development of a series of permanent supportive housing buildings for vulnerable Calgarians. Legacy on 5th is the tenth newly constructed building to open for Calgary Homeless Foundation and HomeSpace through the RESOLVE Campaign.

HomeSpace Society leads the development of the properties and owns and manages the buildings designated to Calgary Homeless Foundation through RESOLVE, including Legacy on 5th. HomeSpace is a charitable real estate developer, rental housing owner, and property manager that provide supportive and affordable housing for the most vulnerable Calgarians and own a portfolio of nearly 700 units throughout Calgary. They also partner with several social-service agencies to provide supports to the more than 750 residents their buildings.

Calgary Seniors' Resource Society, Autism Calgary in partnership with Autism Asperger Friendship Society and Sinneave Family Foundation, and New Age Services will be providing services to residents of Legacy on 5th.