



Seniors
Housing

community connections
GEF Seniors Housing Newsletter | Spring 2020



Message from the CEO, Raymond Swonek

Happy spring! I hope you are staying safe and staying home.

Although this edition of Community Connections comes to you in the midst of uncertain times, what remains the same is our commitment to do everything we can to ensure our tenants, residents and staff are staying safe and healthy.

Cleaning and sanitizing have always been a part of our daily routines. Now we are taking additional preventative measures to keep our buildings clean and safe for our tenants, residents, staff and other essential visitors. We have increased the cleaning frequency of our lodges to a minimum of three times a day and increased the cleaning to daily in the apartment buildings, encouraged frequent hand washing and provided additional hand sanitizing stations for all to use. We have also implemented restrictions mandated by Alberta Health Services, including:

- Restricting access to non-essential visitors and limiting our visiting hours in the lodges from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily to all visitors until further notice.
- Requiring everyone who comes into our lodges and combined sites – Kiwanis Place, Pleasantview Place and Sakaw Terrace – to fill out the AHS Visitor and Volunteer Screening Questionnaire to ensure those who are entering our buildings are safe to do so. We require this of all staff, residents, tenants, essential visitors and contractors until further notice.
- Promoting healthy hygiene practices and encouraging social distancing between tenants, residents and staff.
- Having all GEF staff members who can work from home do so, as well as staggering office hours where possible to ensure safe distancing.

Our approach is directed and guided by the Alberta Chief Medical Officer of Health and Alberta Health Services. We are continually updating our website with new and important information. To keep current on what we are doing at GEF, please visit our website at www.gef.org.

It is important in this time to remember that we are all in this together, and we need to keep our sense of community more than ever. Please take care of one another. Although you may not be able to see each other face to face, there are many other ways to reach out. You are not in this alone. In that vein, we are using a great resource for daily inspiration, and you can too: text COVID19HOPE to 393939 for daily text messages. This is an Alberta-based initiative, set up through Alberta Health Services, and you can find out more about Text4Hope by visiting the AHS website.

On a happier note, I am pleased to announce we are in the process of adding another member to our family. As of May 1, 2020 we will be managing a 198-unit apartment building in West Edmonton called Westlawn Courts. We are excited to get to know our new tenants and welcome them into the GEF Seniors Housing family!

Stay safe and healthy, and get outside when you can. We are looking forward to the day when we can open our friendly doors to everyone again!



Minister of Seniors and Housing visits Sakaw Terrace



GEF Seniors Housing was thrilled to have the Minister of Seniors and Housing, Josephine Pon, visit the Sakaw Terrace community recently. Minister Pon was welcomed by Board Chair Karen Lynch, Board Member Marny Conlon, Director of Facility Management Doug Kitlar, Director of Marketing and Community Engagement Heather Massel and Sakaw Terrace Assistant

Manager Teslene Walters. Minister Pon was given an indepth tour using Doug's extensive knowledge of the building and Teslene's wonderful insight about the residents.

The Minister also had the opportunity to meet with some of the tenants and residents, who had only the most wonderful things to say about GEF and Sakaw Terrace. On the tour, the Minister was interested in the environmental impact of the heating and mechanical systems, commented on the cleanliness of the building, was pleased to see how large the suites were and felt, and was quite happy to hear that the recreation rooms were well used by families on the weekends. This visit was a great opportunity to connect with Minister Pon and we are excited to work closely with her and her team in the future!



 An advertisement for Sakaw Terrace featuring a large, smiling photograph of an elderly woman with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a pink top. The background is a soft-focus image of a man.

Welcome Home

- Accommodation for adults age 65+
- Affordable rent based on your income
- 31 apartment buildings
- 11 lodges with meals and housekeeping
- Clean, well maintained, secure buildings
- Friendly, professional staff
- Easy access to public transportation

To request an application package, or for more information, please call **780.482.6561**, email housinginfo@gef.org or visit gef.org.

Lauderdale Homes redevelopment third community consultation

On Monday, February 3, 2020 we held the third round of public consultations on the Lauderdale Homes redevelopment at 103 Street and 129 Avenue.



GEF staff and the architectural firm, RPK Architects, were on hand to talk to about 30 community residents and get their additional feedback on the on the architectural design – and conceptual floor plans – based on community feedback from the second round of consultations.

Did you know?

GEF Seniors Housing is a registered charity. We are the largest provider of subsidized seniors' housing in Edmonton.

We gladly accept donations to support our capital building projects and programs that enrich the lives of our residents and tenants.

To make a one-time or ongoing donation, please visit our website at gef.org and click on the "Donate Online" button.



Many seniors living in the area require affordable housing. Given the functionality of the current units and their condition, the best alternative for the future is to demolish the existing units and build new. The Lauderdale redevelopment represents an exciting opportunity for GEF to take a different approach to meet the needs of low-to moderate-income seniors in Edmonton who are seeking independent living options.

With a total of 38 proposed one and two-bedroom independent living units, the units will contain full kitchens – including a stove, fridge and microwave – stacked laundry and dryer, luxury vinyl flooring, single three-piece bathrooms and on-site parking.

Lauderdale is an important model for what future GEF redevelopments, like Golden Homes, could look like. In addition to being designed for affordable, independent senior living, the Lauderdale redevelopment will be pet-friendly and environmentally responsible.

On January 1, 2020 GEF Seniors Housing introduced its revised pet policy, which now enables prospective tenants and residents across all GEF communities to apply to bring a pet into the building to live with them, subject to specific terms and conditions. As well, GEF is committed to strong environmental stewardship, and the new Lauderdale project will reduce the building's carbon footprint without compromising on the quality of living it offers.

The property needs to be re-zoned for the project to proceed, and GEF and RPK Architects continue to work with the City of Edmonton on the re-zoning process. The goal is to apply for the zoning that will best suit the project and the community. We are still on track to select the design and construction teams this spring.

Following this, there will be several months of detailed design and engineering, all current Lauderdale residents need one year's notice and then everyone has to be relocated to another GEF community for the duration of the rebuild. These residents will also have first choice of the new suites when they're ready. We are hoping to break ground on the redevelopment in 2021 and open the new Lauderdale Homes community in 2022.

