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An Initiative of Unionized Professional
Contractors and Tradespeople

Media Release

From Planting a Seed, to Harvesting a Big Dream for Halifax's North End

HALIFAX, NS – May 1, 2015 – On Friday afternoon, neighbours, family, friends, and members of the local construction industry gathered at Murray Warrington Park in Halifax's North End to celebrate the grand opening of Hope Blooms' new greenhouse. The eco-friendly greenhouse was donated to Hope Blooms by Build Right Nova Scotia, a province-wide partnership of contractors and organized tradespeople.

"We are thrilled this day is finally here," said Build Right Nova Scotia President Jon Mullin. "It has been an honour to take the lead on such an important project. The contribution that Hope Blooms makes to the community is so great, and we hope that this greenhouse will help further their amazing work. On behalf of all members of Build Right Nova Scotia, both workers and contractors, we thank you for letting us be a part of Hope Blooms."

The 12-metre-long, 1500-square-foot building was designed by local architecture firm Fowler Bauld & Mitchell in collaboration with Hope Blooms. "It's so cool to see something I helped create come to life, especially something as big as a greenhouse" says Kolade Boboye, one of the several Hope Blooms youth who provided ideas for the greenhouse design. "We can't wait to start growing!"

The design includes unique features that will allow Hope Blooms to take advantage of alternative resources to maintain their garden. For example, they plan to use compost from the garden and organic materials donated by local businesses to generate heat for the greenhouse, and use rainwater catch-alls for water supply.

The greenhouse will allow Hope Blooms to expand their growing season year-round. Additionally, they plan on exploring new planting methods and adding new types of herbs, fruits and vegetables to their harvest. "We are really focused on food security and expanding our community programs," explained Jessie Jollymore, Founder of Hope Blooms. "Our youth leaders are full of ideas, for example, creating a service to deliver fresh baby food to new mothers in the community. This greenhouse will allow us to keep pushing ourselves and continue to grow. We are ecstatic!"

Hope Blooms gained local fame in the fall of 2013 with their appearance on CBC's Dragon's Den TV show – walking away with a \$40,000 donation from the Dragons. The greenhouse contribution by Build Right Nova Scotia allows Hope Blooms to put the Dragons' money towards the Hope Blooms scholarship fund.

Build Right Nova Scotia is a partnership of organized contractors and tradespeople with the goal of highlighting the benefits of union-built industrial, commercial, and institutional buildings in Nova Scotia. Build Right NS promotes the contributions that many of their highly trained workers and employers make to the community.

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