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## BtB IS CREATING LOCAL INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN OTTAWA

**Ottawa, Ontario** - Broadening the Base (BtB) is innovating affordable housing solutions that can leverage recent government commitments to address the affordable housing gap in Ottawa.

"We applaud the financial commitments made by the federal and provincial governments for affordable housing" said Chris Henderson, Ottawa entrepreneur and co-founder of BtB Ottawa. "Now is the time to leverage this leadership to address the critical lack of affordable housing in our community".

BtB promotes broader community participation and the adoption of innovative funding and development solutions to maximize commitments and work with governments, including the City of Ottawa, to address the housing needs of low income and vulnerable citizens in Ottawa.

Over the past twelve months BtB's wide network of community stakeholders have identified exciting opportunities surrounding redevelopment of existing lands and resources, feasible opportunities for public and private funding of affordable housing, community involvement in design and planning of diverse neighbourhoods, and development partnerships to integrate and make affordable housing viable. In February, BtB partnered with four affordable housing projects to test and create knowledge about these opportunities to help define feasibility and scale-up potential.

"BtB is Ottawa's Innovation Hub for creating real solutions for affordable housing development" said LoriAnn Girvan, BtB Core Team member and Affordable Housing Strategies Consultant.

BtB will now convene innovation charrettes in the areas of social impact investment, philanthropy, land use and development, and community engagement to bring the expert, strategic thinking of the principal stakeholders in each of these areas to define Ottawa-specific solutions and approaches that can increase affordable housing capacity in Ottawa.

BtB encourages members of the community who would like to be involved in BtB to contact our coordinator at coordinator@btbottawa.ca. Information on our progress and who is involved in the initiative is also available via our website btbottawa.ca or through Twitter @btbottawa

BtB is a solutions-based, community-led collaborative, consisting of a diverse set of stakeholders, that seeks to promote widespread engagement in and identify new and underutilized models and mechanisms to accelerate affordable housing development in Ottawa for key vulnerable populations including individuals who are chronically homeless, low income families with young children, youth at risk, Aboriginal people, and vulnerable seniors. We believe that providing housing choices to residents at all income levels is essential if Ottawa is to remain a prosperous, inclusive city.

## For more information, please contact:

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