

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Nov. 25, 2012

## **Radiance Cohousing Seeks Members**

Radiance Cohousing is looking to expand its membership and will be having an information session on the evening of Wednesday, Nov. 28. The public event will be held from 7:00pm-8:30pm at The Two Twenty (220 20<sup>th</sup> Street W). Members of the media are invited to attend this event.

The purpose of this information session will be to:

- describe the vision for the project
- give a general description of cohousing
- provide the current status of the project
- explain some of the logistics (e.g. potential location, building design, financial structure, etc.)
- let people know how they can get involved
- discuss how Radiance Cohousing plans to move forwards / next steps

Radiance Cohousing is a new housing project developing in Saskatoon, which will foster a sustainable way of life that balances both private home ownership and shared common space. Its current members envision a group of twelve to twenty individual townhouses, fully equipped with kitchen, living room, bedrooms, and bathroom. In addition, common space, such as a shared garden, entertainment space, dining room, and laundry facilities, will be integrated into the project. The housing project will also provide spaces that are child-centred and pet-friendly. It is hoped that the project will be built in a bikeable, walkable location in Saskatoon, close to amenities such as the Farmer's Market, the businesses on and near 20<sup>th</sup> Street, the river, and downtown.

Olivia Swerhone-Wick has been a part of the group since it started meeting in March 2012: "We have come so far in such a short amount of time! It's so easy to work towards something when you believe in its ability to positively impact not only your own life, but the community and environment as well."

Dasha Korneeva and Andrey Olinov started coming to the meetings in the fall. "We found out about the cohousing project from a friend. It sounded interesting so we decided to go to a meeting. We felt immediately welcomed and have had a very positive experience helping to plan the cohousing project ever since then. The people involved are really incredible and it's exciting to think that they will be our neighbours one day."

Cohousing is an emerging style of housing, centred around fully equipped private homes, as well as shared spaces, activities, and facilities. Although cohousing originated in Europe, projects have started to spread throughout North America (see the Canadian Cohousing Network for other examples in Canada: [www.cohousing.ca](http://www.cohousing.ca)). In fact, Saskatoon saw its first cohousing project, Wolf Willow, reach completion this month ([www.wolfwillowcohousing.ca/](http://www.wolfwillowcohousing.ca/)).

Unlike a typical condo development, cohousing communities are planned, owned, maintained, and managed by the residents, who also have the option to share activities such as cooking, gardening, entertaining, and childcare. In addition to the bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom and living space offered in one's private home, residents are also provided with access to common facilities. These often include a shared kitchen and dining room, space for entertaining, childcare space, guest rooms, workshop, art/music room, laundry, and storage.

Cohousing also provides the opportunity to create and maintain meaningful relationships with other residents, as well as neighbours in the surrounding community. Robyn Parker: "I knew long before I heard the word "cohousing" that I wanted to live in a way where I knew my neighbours and was surrounded by supportive friends and family. I was really fortunate to have grown up in a great community and, now that I'm older, I want to recreate that."

To find out more about Radiance Cohousing, please visit [www.radiancecohousing.ca](http://www.radiancecohousing.ca) or contact [info@radiancecohousing.ca](mailto:info@radiancecohousing.ca).

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For further information on the event:

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