



## Media Release

For Immediate Release

June 2, 2014

### A new furnace and insulation brings relief to deserving homeowners

SaskEnergy, Habitat for Humanity and Magnus Insulation are teaming up for the 2014 SaskEnergy Home Energy Legacy Program (HELP). Today is the start of the third week of the project where selected low-income families from across the Province will benefit from reduced energy costs by receiving upgrades and improvements to their homes that they would not otherwise be able to make. Participating HELP homeowners will have an ENERGY STAR® qualified furnace installed. Other upgrades may include installation of ENERGY STAR® qualified water heater, windows or doors, programmable thermostat, attic or basement insulation, water-saving toilets and showerheads.

Volunteers from both SaskEnergy and Habitat for Humanity will be helping complete the energy efficiency improvements in Saskatoon this week. SaskEnergy Network Members, Razor Heating & Air Conditioning, Efficiency Heating, Cooling & Fireplaces, and Flow Right Mechanical will be installing ENERGY STAR® qualified Carrier furnaces, ENERGY STAR® qualified water heaters, programmable thermostats and water saving toilets for the selected households.

“The strength of this program is that it brings together community partners and volunteers to help participating families lower their energy costs - something especially relevant following one of the coldest winters in decades,” said Robert Haynes, Vice-President Human Resources and Corporate Affairs at SaskEnergy, “HELP also shows that any improvements to your home's energy efficiency - big or small - can make a real difference when getting ready for next winter.”

“Anyone interested in being part of the program had to attend an information night in their community to submit their application,” said Sharon Prediger, Director of Family Services, Habitat for Humanity Saskatoon. “From there, homeowners were selected through an application process administered by Habitat, based on income, homeowner circumstances and improvements needed. This is a wonderful opportunity for low income homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, provided by SaskEnergy.”

A structural inspection and energy audit was performed on each of the participating homes by Amerispec Inspection Services. These reports provide an energy rating for the home, as well as recommendations for retrofits that will best reduce energy costs and improve the home's overall energy efficiency. SaskEnergy and Habitat for Humanity use these reports to help determine priority improvements that will most benefit the homeowner.

Installing an ENERGY STAR® qualified furnace can have the greatest impact for homeowners. Space heating is the largest energy user in a home, accounting for approximately 50 percent of a home's energy use. An ENERGY STAR® qualified furnace will work more efficiently and economically throughout the year, provide better air circulation, even temperature distribution and reduce natural gas and electrical costs.

Another significant improvement to energy efficiency is proper insulation which can reduce energy loss through air escape routes around the home by 25-40%. Magnus Insulation, a Saskatoon-based company will be donating their product and services for the selected homes throughout the province for the second year.

“Having sufficient attic insulation is often one of the least costly and most effective ways to reduce your energy bills,” said Pablo Hincapie, of Magnus Insulation. “A well-insulated attic will not only keep your home warmer in the winter, but it will also help keep it cooler and more comfortable in the summer. The Home Energy Legacy Program gives us the opportunity to educate homeowners while giving back to the community.”

On average homeowners participating in the Home Energy Legacy program realize an average savings of 30% on their energy bill. To date, the program has helped 36 families. In 2014, 18 homeowners will be “HELPed” in seven communities bringing the cumulative total to over 50 homeowners.

2014 HELP communities include Weyburn, McTaggart, Canora, Yorkton, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw and Regina.

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For more information about the program:

- YouTube, search “SaskEnergy Presents: HELP”
- Visit <http://saskenergy.com/community/SEintheCommunity/HELP/default.asp>
- Facebook - Home Energy Legacy Program
- or contact:

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**Attention News Directors and Assignment Editors:**

***During the week of June 2 - 6 homeowners (see attached for more information) will be available to media for photos and interviews between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Please call Shannon to make arrangements. Thank you.***

Proud supporters of the 2014 SaskEnergy Home Energy Legacy Program in Saskatoon include:



**Information about the 2014 Saskatoon HELP participants:**

**Sally** is a proud mother and grandmother who has lived on her own in her home since 2003. She has worked hard to make many improvements to her home, but after having some unexpected expenses associated with removing a tree that fell on her house, some of the more major upgrades were put on hold. The Home Energy Legacy Program will provide Sally with an ENERGY STAR® qualified high-efficiency furnace, a repaired and re-insulated back porch, attic insulation, and miscellaneous upgrades to her doors and windows that will allow her to finally have the energy-efficient home she's been working towards.

**Earl** has lived in his 1973 home for 35 years. Over the years he finished his basement, upgraded the ceilings and recently had to complete some roof repairs after experiencing water damage. Having been self-employed for the majority of his life, energy improvements had to be balanced with the cost of the usual home repairs and upkeep. Through the Home Energy Legacy Program, Jim will receive a new ENERGY STAR® qualified high-efficiency furnace, a water-saving toilet and attic insulation that will help keep his heating costs down and help him to remain in his home.

**Bernadette** and her daughter moved to Canada from the Philippines in January 2007. After receiving a full time position as a Care Aide Worker, Bernadette was able to purchase her own home, a 1954 bungalow. Unfortunately, during the last three winters in the home, the furnace and water heater have been unreliable, causing Bernadette a lot of expense and stress. While in the past she has received help from a handy neighbour, seeing the ad for the Home Energy Legacy Program on Kijiji gave Bernadette new hope. Through the program, Bernadette and her family will receive energy-efficient upgrades, including a new ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> qualified furnace and water heater, which will help her save money and provide peace of mind for many more winters to come.

**Bob** is a hard-working family man with two adult sons that he is very proud of. He has lived in his home for twelve years and can't imagine living anywhere else. Despite some challenges, Bob has always been financially responsible and has worked hard to save money for home improvements and maintenance. A new furnace has been something on his "wish list" as he suspects—for good reasons—that it is on its last legs. The Home Energy Legacy Program will provide Bob with an ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> qualified high-efficiency furnace and water heater, a water-saving toilet and attic insulation, helping him to save money and energy.

**Mabel** has lived in her slab-style home for 54 years. Mabel purchased it, brand new, with her husband in 1960. She has been very diligent keeping her home updated and in good condition, and intends to stay in the home as long as she can. Both her furnace and water heater are 40 years old, and have recently begun to show their age, having to have many parts replaced. She recognized that neither the furnace or water heater had much life left in them. Through the Home Energy Legacy Program, Mabel will receive an ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> qualified high-efficiency furnace and water heater, attic insulation and a water-saving toilet. These upgrades will help her to continue living in her home and eliminate the worry of living with an unsafe furnace and unreliable water heater.

**Stephen & Carli** attended the Home Energy Legacy Program informational night hoping to save a little money on some of the energy upgrades they planned on completing in their home. They were thrilled when they learned about the program and felt very hopeful about what it could mean to their family. Stephen and Carli both work with charitable organizations and believe in helping to build a better community. They are enthusiastic about saving energy, and have already made some energy-efficient changes in their home. Through the Home Energy Legacy Program, this family will receive an ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> qualified high-efficiency furnace.