



October 9, 2025

## Cerebral Palsy Association of Manitoba and CoHabit Announce the Evolution of the CoHabit Housing Project to an Independent Charity

Because of the unwavering support and leadership from the Cerebral Palsy Association of Manitoba (CPMB), and in partnership with CPMB, we are so proud to announce today that CoHabit is now an independent charitable organization, operating under the name CoHabit Inc.

We cannot thank the Team at CoHabit and this entire community of support enough for your unwavering commitment to this project and to the dignity and rights of people with disabilities.

## **Quick History**

CoHabit was founded in 2019 as a housing initiative of the Cerebral Palsy Association of Manitoba and today has grown into an independent charity to develop integrated accessible housing solutions for adults with disabilities who require supports and services to live lives in community.

"When Margy brought the concept forward to me and the CPMB Board, we could see the need and the potential. We have been very happy to help launch the project and test the idea under our umbrella," said David Kron, Executive Director, Cerebral Palsy Association of Manitoba. "Now that we know the idea is viable and as the project ramps up, it needs more time and resources. It makes sense for them to branch out and become independent so we can continue to focus on our members and their priorities."

CoHabit became incorporated last spring and received its charitable status over the summer. CoHabit hired a part-time Executive Director, Jennifer Rodrigue (formerly, Project Lead) one year ago, and the small team is working out of a (generously donated) office space located in the Smart Park at the University of Manitoba.

## What CoHabit is working on:

In partnership with Réseau Compassion Network and Actionmarguerite, we are working on a demonstration project that will be located at 825 Taché Avenue. The demonstration project is a 65 suite fully accessible apartment block with 20 suites identified as deeply affordable and that include 24/7 wrap-around disability services. The goals for this demonstration project are to:

- Demonstrate the need for accessibility and that accessible design is beautiful and marketable.
- Demonstrate that support services can and should be delivered in integrated settings.
- Demonstrate that intentionally nurturing community connection will positively affect the
  health and wellbeing of every person that lives in that building by addressing loneliness,
  purpose and belonging.

We still need a commitment from the Provincial Government to fund the on-site disability support services for this project. Our request has gone to government and we are waiting to hear back. We need your help to ensure that the Province understands that integrated, accessible services are needed in Manitoba and that having the choice to live in community, with appropriate supports, is a human right. We will be reaching out to you soon with a call to action to support our funding proposal.

We also continue to pursue land at Southwood Circle and are open and in discussion with potential partners on other CoHabit locations and project opportunities. Throughout the fall we will be meeting with developers to discuss both Southwood Circle and other locations.

## **New contact information:**

The CoHabit team can be reached at the following email address and phone numbers:

Jennifer Rodrigue, Executive Director: <u>jennifer@cohabit.ca</u> 204-803-5781 Margy Nelson, Founder and Director of Partnerships: <u>margy@cohabit.ca</u> 204-795-6434

New Mailing address: CoHabit Inc c/o 148 Redview Drive Winnipeg, MB R2N 3C8