

# Airdrie Low-income Housing Opposed

*Calgary Sun, Saturday, January 23, 2010*

More than 600 Airdrie residents have signed a petition against a Habitat for Humanity affordable housing development.

The proposed Monklands Development in Airdrie includes 20 townhouses and as many as 25 condo units to be built on a hectare of city-owned land adjacent to Ralph McCall School and the Monklands Soccer Park.

Resident Ryan Cameron, who lives near the proposed site, launched an online petition against the development because he's concerned it will increase traffic.

Cameron also doesn't want to lose the greenspace. "We're losing a valuable piece of greenspace – we're about to cut it in half," \*\* he said Friday. "I think there's other options for affordable housing."

Habitat for Humanity Calgary president and CEO Andrew MacLachlan said the site was chosen because of its proximity to public transit, shops and schools.

"It's a great community and it's a great site," he said, adding this is the charity's first low-income housing proposal in Airdrie.

"I have met with and spoken to many Airdrie residents who are extremely supportive of the project and we feel that it is an ideal community for Habitat families to call home."

Habitat for Humanity will host a second open house for the Monklands Development at Airdrie City Hall on Jan. 26 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

## **\*\* Post article comment for Andrew C. MacLachlan, President & CEO – HFH Calgary**

*"We can confirm that the exact area of green space in this part of Airdrie is 13% as confirmed by the City of Airdrie's planning department. Once the vacant lot is removed from the "inventory" the residual green space is 12%. This is at least 20% higher than what the MGA provides for.*

*The net result of the vacant lot being used for the proposed development is that there is only a 1% drop in available green space within this part of Airdrie and not: "We're losing a valuable piece of green space – **we're about to cut it in half**" as quoted by Mr. Cameron in the above noted Sun article.*

*We are very sensitive to the concerns of the community and listen very carefully to what they have to say. We have addressed the traffic and safety issues and can demonstrate that neither of these will have a negative impact on the community.*

*The 1% "loss" of green space will in fact generate improvements to the existing Monklands Soccer Field such that the community will actually be able to benefit more from the proposed improvements through the addition of a community pathway, better site parking and play structures and picnic areas."*