

**THE RWANDAN CANADIAN HEALING CENTRE IS CREATING A NEW HOUSING MODEL  
TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF SUITABLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR  
CONTINENTAL AFRICAN CANADIANS**

## BACKGROUND

- In April 2022, The Rwandan Canadian Healing Centre and its African Canadian community partners were awarded over \$230,000 in funding under the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)'s National Housing Strategy - Solution Lab Project.
- RCHC will be working alongside Overlap Associates, a design firm, to help support the execution of this project. The following agencies join the RCHC in bringing this project to life:
  - The Ghanaian-Canadian Association of Ontario (GCAO)
  - Network for the Advancement of Black Communities (NABC)
  - The New Nakfa - Eritrean Community Network
  - The GTA Rwandan Canadian Collective
  - CASA Consult
  - Kenyan Canadian Association (KCA)
- Many under-served African Communities across Canada face affordable housing challenges due to a lack of capacity, representation and discrimination. Hence, the project is designed to develop and offer a more traditional African experience with in-house programs that will help increase residents' employability skills and provide information to newcomers to Canada.
- African Canadian households often house large intergenerational families. Therefore, there is a need to create affordable multigenerational housing.
- The housing model aims to incorporate community engagement through social programming and resources to give residents the necessary tools and support systems to enter the housing market and address the needs of vulnerable Canadians, such as in-house mental health support, community wellness support, and on-site advocacy programs for lower cost of rent.
- Ultimately, this initiative will be essential in offering residents tools to learn about financial literacy and support to graduate from this housing program, with options to engage in a rent-to-own program for long-term renters.

- The project will go through 5 phases that are set to be completed in June 2023. Once the housing model is delivered, RCHC and its partners will work to promote and implement the solution model. The solution will also be added to the National Housing Strategy to help solve affordable housing challenges across Canada.

## **Additional Information**

- **About RCHC:**

The Rwandan-Canadian Healing Centre (RCHC) was founded in 2018 by Kizito Musabimana. RCHC is a federally registered nonprofit organization based in Toronto, Canada, providing an environment for Rwandan Canadians and other members of Canadian society working to overcome traumatic experiences from genocides, wars, and other catastrophes. With the mission of building a Healing Centre for all who struggle with Post-Traumatic Syndrome Disorder (PTSD) and other trauma-related effects.

[rchc.ca](http://rchc.ca)

[africanadian.org](http://africanadian.org)

- **About Kizito Musabimana - Founder & Executive Director, RCHC**

Kizito prides himself in being a storyteller with a dream of telling successful African stories to the world. After graduating from the Film & Television Production program at Toronto Film School, he attended the Independent Producers program at Centennial College. He learned the art of building bridges through cross-sector collaboration to create a world we wish to see – a more connected, self-sufficient, and just society.

Born in Rwanda, Kizito was 11 years old during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. He later faced an impossible battle to overcome PTSD, a struggle which many in the Rwanda Canadian community continue to face today – especially those who were young at the time of the Genocide.

By taking a holistic approach to life, Kizito overcame the worst of PTSD (severe depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts). He has since worked tirelessly to understand issues in his community, partnering with youth, leaders, and leading organizations to develop programs designed to solve these challenges collaboratively for current and future generations.

## EVENT

RCHC and its African Canadian partner agencies will announce the launch of The African Canadian Affordable Housing - Solutions Lab Project.

Date & Time: **Tuesday, February 21, 2023, from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.**

Location: **Rwandan Canadian Healing Centre Studio Space/Office**

**Entrepreneurs Point - 202-117 Peter Street, Toronto, ON M5V 0M3**

- 30 -

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