

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

COMMITTED TO ENDING THE CYCLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AGENTS DONATE MORE THAN \$11,000 TO LOCAL WOMENS SHELTER

Local REALTORS® are committed to strengthening the communities where they live and work

Kelowna 28th April, 2015 – Broker/Owner, Francis Braam and Broker/Managers, Dave Favell and Steve Gray of Royal LePage Kelowna presented a cheque to Executive Director, Karen Mason and Kathleen Lemieux of the Kelowna Women's Shelter.

In 2014, Royal LePage Kelowna REALTORS® donated part of their commissions to The Royal LePage Shelter Foundation and held fundraising events throughout the year. The result was more than \$11,200 raised to help women and children who are served by the Kelowna Women's Shelter each year.

Violence against women and children is a significant problem in all communities across Canada. Research has shown that it happens in all cultures and religions, in all ethnic and racial communities, and any age and income level. It is estimated that 360,000 children witness family violence in any given year. By assisting women's shelters, we are ensuring women and children have a safe haven from domestic violence and provide funding for support and programs like the Inside/ Outside Violence Prevention for Youth offered by the Kelowna Women's Shelter in our communities and schools. This type of support is essential in helping women and children heal and rebuild their lives.

About the Inside/Out Violence Prevention for Youth Program

Inside/Out, established in 1998, is an interactive program that engages youth in a process of identifying and addressing the issues and challenges they face. Through the sharing of information, group discussions, activities and use of multi-media resources, the program is designed to encourage respectful relationships and healthy lifestyle choices.

With the demands of living in an ever changing, fast paced society, children and teens may have little opportunity to discuss and examine personal issues and concerns in an accepting and supportive environment in which positive choices are encouraged. Inside/Out offers a safe, confidential environment for children and youth, ages 5-18, to talk freely and explore topics such as self-esteem, self-awareness, feelings, relationships with family and friends, dating, bullying, media messages, social behavior and social networking."

For more information, visit www.kelownawomensshelter.com

About the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation

The Royal LePage Shelter Foundation is Canada's largest public foundation dedicated exclusively to supporting women's shelters and ending violence against women and children. Through agent commission contributions and the fundraising activities of the Royal LePage network, we have raised \$16 million and currently support 200 local women's shelters and national partners to help provide new beginnings to more than 30,000 women and children each year. To break the cycle of violence, the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation also supports long-term violence prevention and education programs. All funds raised by Royal LePage offices remain in their local community and because Royal LePage pays the costs of administration, one hundred percent of all money and effort goes toward this important cause.

For more information, visit www.royallepage.ca/shelter.

About Royal LePage

Serving Canadians since 1913, Royal LePage is the country's leading provider of services to real estate brokerages, with a network of 16,000 real estate professionals in over 600 locations nationwide. Royal LePage Kelowna is one of the largest provider of real estate services in Kelowna, and would like to extend its deepest gratitude to its local sponsors and clients who gave so generously in 2014.

For further information please contact:

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**Figure 1, Cheque From Royal LePage Kelowna to Kelowna Women's Shelter, April 25, 2015
(Left to Right) Dave Favell, Karen Mason, Francis Braam, Kathleen Lemieux, Steve Gray**