

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS – STOPPING THE CYCLE

Local REALTORS® working to provide safety and hope to women and children

Kelowna 17 June, 2017 – Broker/Owner, Francis Braam and sales representative, Sara Laamanen of Royal LePage Kelowna presented a cheque to Executive Director, Karen Mason, Resource Development Coordinator, Kathleen Lemieux of the Kelowna Women's Shelter.

In 2016, 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 \$8,700 raised to help women and children who are served by the Kelowna Women's Shelter each year.

By supporting women's shelters, we are ensuring that women and children have somewhere to turn when needing to escape domestic violence and rebuild their lives. Violence against women and children is a significant problem in all communities across Canada regardless of culture, religion, ethnicity or race.

In Canada, it is estimated that 800,000 children witness family violence in any given year. These children often interpret violence as a normal part of a relationship and an acceptable way to resolve conflict. Women's shelters provide victims with essentials such as, food and clothing and deliver ongoing counselling, support and preventive education at no cost.

About the Central Okanagan Emergency Shelter Society and the Kelowna Women's Shelter

The Central Okanagan Emergency Shelter is a non-profit Society, governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

The Kelowna Women's Shelter is a member of B.C. / Yukon Society of Transition Houses, a network of women's shelters, transition houses, and safe homes across B.C., yet function as an independent organization.

The paid staff and volunteers provide services to women and children in the area bounded by Oyama to the North and Peachland to the South.

Many programs and services are offered, including; outreach and support, shelter and transition housing, children's programs, violence prevention, childcare and counselling and crisis support.

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. Every dollar raised goes directly to helping the more than 30,000 women and children who are served each year by the shelters and support programs we fund. Since 1998, the Shelter Foundation has raised more than \$24 million and currently supports 200 local women's shelters and national partners. Our agents donate a portion of their commissions and Royal LePage offices across Canada hold local fundraising events. Our brokers, agents and staff also volunteer and provide in-kind goods to benefit the women and children residing in their local shelters.

For more information, visit www.royallepage.ca/realestate/about-us/shelter-foundation/

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 17,000 real estate professionals in over 600 locations nationwide. Royal LePage Kelowna is one of the largest providers of real estate services in Kelowna. We care deeply about our clients and our community and strive to give you expertise and service you can count on.

For further information please contact:

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**Figure 1, Cheque from Royal LePage Kelowna to Kelowna Women's Shelter, June 17, 2017
(Left to Right) Sara Laamanen, Karen Mason, Francis Braam, Kathleen Lemieux**