

CALEDON Enterprise

12612 HIGHWAY 50 SOUTH, BOLTON ONTARIO, L7E 5T1

Renters get security

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By Matthew Strader, Enterprise Staff



Mike Chopowick, Manager of Policy for FRPO, Ted Whitehead, Director of Certification for FRPO and Caledon Mayor Marolyn Morrison join Bruno Colavecchia, Manager of Operations for Human Services and Peel Living at the Region of Peel, Allan Weinbaum, Chairman of the Board of FRPO and David Bingham, Treasurer and Director of Corporate Finance and Treasurer of Peel Living for the Region of Peel in unveiling the Rent with Confidence sign, signifying that 25 Stationview Place is now part of the Certified Rental Building Program. Matthew Strader photo

Some rental properties in Caledon just got certified.

The Federation of Rental-Housing Providers of Ontario (FRPO) have certified six buildings in Caledon, including Stationview Place, where a group of dignitaries gathered for a photo opportunity, sign and banner unveiling to honour the moment.

"We want to know that when we are going to rent a place that it is well-run and well-managed, that is what this means," said Caledon Mayor Marolyn Morrison. "And more importantly our Caledon residents will have the confidence that where they are going to live is safe and clean."

Peel Living, or Peel Housing Corporation (PHC), is the Region of Peel's non-profit housing company and one of the largest landlords in Canada, providing housing for several thousand, as well as working with 13 community agencies that provide support services to residents in over 300 units.

The FRPO launched the Certified Rental Building (CRB) Program as a means of providing renters with some security, a system that ensures quality living spaces are provided across Ontario. Properties must meet 36 established building management and customer safety standards. And the program is rigorous in its accountability, using J.D. Power and Associates as a third-party to complete the building audits on behalf of the program and FRPO.

The PHC is the first social housing provider in Canada to receive the CRB designation, meaning that all six locations in Caledon that are operated by the PHC have been certified.

These include, Riverview Terrace, Stationview Place, Pinnacle View, 1640 Maple Grove Road, 60 Jane Street and 20 Walker Road East.

"We are so very pleased to have this, the first-ever 'quality assurance' accredited facility in the Town of Caledon," said Morrison. "And it is fitting that Peel Living is among the first of Caledon's landlords to achieve certification for their building. It is my hope all Caledon landlords will embrace this program for the benefit of their current and future tenants."

But most of all, said the Mayor, renters in Caledon will not have to worry about the homes they live in, knowing that a certification provides them with a piece of mind.

For a multi-residential apartment building to qualify as a Certified Rental Building, it must meet the five mandatory requirements of the program: abide by FRPO's and the program's member code of conduct, adhere to the program's mandatory standards of practice, successfully comply with the mandatory Third-Party audit process, identify staff who have successfully completed the

program's training and education component, and agree to market and identify their building as a CRB to prospective tenants.

For more information on the program, its guidelines, and its participants, visit the website: www.crbprogram.org.