

## **SPEAKING NOTES FOR THE HONOURABLE JIM WATSON, GUEST MC**

Tonight we'll begin our introductions with 15 very important people: the participants in this year's On Our Own Together II housing project. It takes a lot of courage to take those first steps towards adult independence, and I'd like everyone to join me in recognizing that effort. So to all of the On Your Own Together II participants, as I call your names, I'd like you to stand up and remain standing where you are, and I'd ask that the audience please hold their applause until all the participants are out of their chairs.

John Cholmondeley  
Jennifer Dobson  
Maira Fuenzalida  
Cooper Gage  
Paul Hamilton  
Jennifer Harris  
Caroline Matte  
Ryan McBride  
Ian Murhpy  
Warren Murphy  
Lucas Rodgers  
Michael Salibi  
Laura Stewart  
Rachel Wexler  
Robin Zimcik

Thank you participants, and please be seated. Next I will introduce to you our special guests for the evening. As I say your name, if you can please stand and be recognized.

Maureen Moloughney

Maureen Moloughney is the Community Coordinator of Heartwood House: au coeur de la vie, the wonderful community building at 153 Chapel Street that is home to the LiveWorkPlay organization. Heartwood House was started 3 years ago thanks in part to a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Maureen also manages the OC Transpo Lost and Found operation, where more than half a dozen LiveWorkPlay participants work as volunteers, helping return lost items to Ottawa bus riders. Thank you for joining us Maureen.

Tom O'Neil and Jean-Paul Gagnon

Tom O'Neil is a member of the Ottawa area Grant Review Team for the Ontario Trillium Foundation. This is Mr. O'Neil's second time participating in a LiveWorkPlay launch ceremony. Two years ago he spoke on behalf of the Trillium Foundation in announcing the launch of the Against The Grain woodworking operation.

Mr. O'Neil is joined tonight by Jean-Paul Gagnon, one of the Program Managers for the Ontario Trillium Foundation in the Champlain/Ottawa-Carleton region. Mr. Gagnon was responsible for reviewing the On Our Own Together II application and clarifying details with LiveWorkPlay. Thank you gentlemen for being here.

David McRobie

David McRobie is President of David S. McRobie Architects, and with support from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Seed Funding Initiative, his firm is currently working with LiveWorkPlay to quantify the housing needs of LiveWorkPlay participants and develop corresponding designs. It is clear that President David McRobie and vice-president James Salem have become very enthusiastic about the entire LiveWorkPlay housing process. Thank you Mr. McRobie for taking the time to join us here tonight.

Russel Mawby

Russell Mawby has been the Director of Housing at the City of Ottawa for exactly one year as of this week. Mr. Mawby comes from the City of Saskatoon, where for the last six years he established and managed housing and development policies. Prior to that, as founder and president of the Collaborative Housing Society in Toronto, he was a leader in innovative housing partnerships. Over the years Mr. Mawby has been actively involved in housing policy and program development on the provincial, national and international levels. We look forward to some comments from Russell Mawby in just a few minutes time.

Wendy Mitchell

Most everyone here knows Wendy Mitchell. She is a multi-year program volunteer and the current Chair of the LiveWorkPlay organization. Tonight she is here representing MBNA Canada Bank, which provided financial support for the On Our Own Together project last summer. Thank you Wendy for all that you do!

Rudy Hogan

Rudy Hogan was unable to join us tonight, but he is a Project Officer with Human Resources Development Canada. The original SMILE program at LiveWorkPlay got off the ground thanks to an HRDC Youth Services Canada project. Although LiveWorkPlay has not been in an official partnership with HRDC for the past few years, Rudy Hogan has taken the initiative to find out about some recent projects, including On Our Own Together.

Pierre Sauve and Ginette Desmarais

Pierre Sauve and Ginette Desmarais were unable to join us tonight, but they are Program Supervisors from the Eastern Regional Office of the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services. More than 70% of LiveWorkPlay's current adult program costs are supported by the Ministry's Foundations Initiative program. Mr. Sauve was critical to the negotiation of the original agreement that made this possible. Ms. Desmarais has recently taken on new responsibilities including the LiveWorkPlay portfolio, and so we welcome her to the LiveWorkPlay environment for the first time tonight.

John Tracey

John Tracey was unable to join us tonight, but he is a manager with Carleton University Housing & Conference Services. He was instrumental in organizing appropriate space for the first On Our Own Together experiment in 2003, and spent considerable effort on the same task for this year's project. Mr. Tracey and the rest of the staff at Carleton have always been welcoming of LiveWorkPlay participants and are looking forward to their return in May.

Raymond Leblanc and Ruma Paruthi

Raymond Leblanc is a full Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Ottawa. His research interests include intellectual disabilities and qualitative methodologies for the assessment of quality of life. He became involved with LiveWorkPlay through the Centre for Research on Community Services, and during On Our Own Together II he will oversee the work of graduate student Ruma Paruthi, who will be conducting a literature review and following the progress of the participants throughout the project. Thank you for both for being here tonight and we look forward to seeing the results of your work.

Denise Van Herk

Denise Van Herk is a Manager based in the Ottawa area offices of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Canadian Centre for Public-Private Partnerships in Housing. LiveWorkPlay is benefiting from the CMHC Seed Funding program, which has provided \$10,000 towards professional services in the development of an affordable, innovative, and community-based housing solution. Thank you Ms. Van Herk for being with us tonight.

Madeleine Meilleur

Madeleine Meilleur was elected to provincial government in 2003 after more than a decade in municipal politics. Since 1991 she has held office in the City of Vanier, the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, and finally as councillor in the new City of Ottawa. In addition to serving as MPP for Ottawa-Vanier, she currently serves as the Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs as well as the Ministry of Culture, which has responsibility for the work of the Ontario Trillium Foundation. We will hear more about the foundation when Madeleine Meilleur speaks to us later this evening, and she will also tell us about how the Ontario Trillium Foundation is supporting the On Our Own Together II housing project this May and June at Carleton University. Thank you Minister Meilleur for taking the time to contribute to our launch event tonight.

We will hear from Minister Meilleur shortly, but first I would ask that Russell Mawby come up and say a few words about the issue of housing with reference to special populations and directions in housing at the City of Ottawa.

Thank you Mr. Mawby. I would now asked that Madeleine Meilleur tell us a bit more about the work of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and share with us the details of the financial support being provided for On Our Own Together II.