

# HERONGATE TENANT COALITION



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## SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT WINTER 2022

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# HERONGATE TENANT COALITION (HTC)

Herongate Tenant Coalition (HTC) is a grassroots organization that was created in response to the purchase of townhouses in the Herongate neighbourhood in Ottawa by Hazelview Properties. Hazelview's largest project has been the purchase and mass eviction of the Herongate community in Ottawa and is considered the largest urban eviction campaign in Canada. Hazelview's plan is to evict and demolish the existing houses, townhouses, and apartments in Herongate to replace them with luxury rental units. The HTC has used community organization to aid tenants in the fight against Hazelview as well as providing mutual aid and legal support to those involved in the resistance.



## OUR PROJECT

To achieve our goals, we planned and implemented a gardening supply community drop off for people in Ottawa to donate needed supplies to the Herongate community. This involved advertising our drop off in Ottawa and reaching out to community organizations in the Ottawa area to try and get used and new gardening equipment donations. We also advertised our event in Herongate itself in order to get people excited about gardening. The event took place on March 20th, 2022 from 10am-5pm. Community members who came to our event were greeted with a fresh cup of coffee provided by Happy Goat and were welcome to give us personal information so that we could deliver gardening equipment to them as a care package. The implementation of a community garden will boost the mood of the community as they continue to resist against ongoing and future demovictions in the Herongate community.

## GOALS

1. Raise positive awareness about the Herongate community to combat negative media coverage
2. Collect gardening equipment to support existing or new gardeners in the Herongate community
3. Connect our group with the Women's Foundation of Nepal (WFN)



## ISSUE

Despite being a vibrant and close-knit community, the Herongate neighborhood has been subject to "demovictions" over the past several years at the hands of their landlord, Hazelview Properties. One of the effects of these demovictions has been increasingly negative media coverage that depicts Herongate as a neglected, unsafe, and problematic community.

# Inventory of Donations

- Hose & hose attachment
- 2 large shovels
- 3 smaller trowels
- 1 rake
- 3 small bags of potting soil
- 1 medium bag of topsoil
- 4 bags of mycorrhizae soil
- Planter pots (2 large, 5 medium, 10 small)
- 3 propagation/seedling trays
- 25 packs of seeds (flowers, vegetables)
- 20 dahlia bulbs
- 4 tomato cages
- Rubber mallet
- Light ballasts
- Watering Can
- 2 coffee boxes from Happy Goat Coffee
- \$470 in financial donations



## Takeaways

We learned that our society can be doing more to address housing discrimination. By engaging in mutual aid frameworks to help communities in need, we can leave a lasting impact on entire neighbourhoods. Our project aimed to meaningfully contribute to helping Herongate tenants by humanizing them through social media and advertisements around Ottawa, and by encouraging and facilitating tenant gardening. We learned that working with a team is both rewarding and challenging. As a group, we were able to understand the many different factors that contribute to undertaking social action such as: getting to know the community, identifying the key individuals that will help us attain our goal, and simply learning about what the community is passionate about. All of us have different ideas and perspectives, and it was hard to adapt our ideas into a project plan that would be conducive to being done in a short amount of time. This made our work more challenging as we had to find a way to incorporate our ideas all together into one final project. However, we did a great job and we are all better prepared to work in more team scenarios in the future.





# Record of Publicity

**Support the Herongate gardening community by donating your gardening supplies!**

*Herongate is a lively and vibrant community that has been subjected to ongoing demolitions and evictions at the hands of Hazelview properties. To preserve and amplify positivity in the community, we intend to collect gardening equipment through donations to help support the Herongate residents in their gardening efforts*

**LOOKING FOR:**

- Shovels
- Wheelbarrow
- Gloves
- Garden Pots
- Seeds

**AND MUCH MORE!**

Can't make it to Baycrest / Cedarwood? Send an email to [Herongatetc@gmail.com](mailto:Herongatetc@gmail.com) and we can organize a pick up from your location! Unable to donate tools at this time, or looking for more information on the Herongate Community? Consider sending an e-transfer or email to [Herongatetc@gmail.com](mailto:Herongatetc@gmail.com)

**Drop off at the intersection of Baycrest and Cedarwood March 20th 10am-5pm!**

For more information follow Herongate Tenant Coalition @herongatetc



Twitter post during the event reminding followers of the garden supply donation drop-off.



Poster shared to various social media platforms reminding viewers the garden supply donation drop-off is starting soon.

Poster advertising garden supply donation drop-off event. This was shared virtually on social media as well as physically throughout Ottawa.



Twitter post to share garden supply drop off information.