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Ottawa NGOs to Unite Under One Roof

An innovative vision for social work spaces is getting ready to be launched in January 2012.

Under One Roof Properties Inc. is modeled after Toronto's Centre for Social Innovation, where NGOs come together to share resources, ideas and work space in a centralized sustainable location.

Diane Touchette, Under One Roof's President, explains: "People work best when they feel they are a part of a network of peers with the same social values. This initiative provides a unique opportunity for NGOs and progressives to support and learn from each other's work in a healthy, collaborative environment that also contributes to the revitalization of the downtown core."

Under One Roof, located at 251 Bank Street, has been in the works for over two years. Renovations are currently underway and tenants are looking forward to moving in for December 2011 and January 2012. The template for a collaborative work space is expanding floor by floor throughout the building to accommodate future tenants. The space is being completely retrofitted with environmentally sound materials and state-of-the-art furniture, equipment, and technology. In addition to office space, there will be communal spaces integrated into the floor plan to better facilitate the sharing of ideas and projects.

Under One Roof offers a variety of different types of leases to tenants: from longer-term leases for larger NGOs to more flexible leases for smaller organizations and consultants. Tenancy will include phone, long distance, internet, the use of meeting rooms of various sizes, and access to an on-site professional studio to film interviews and record podcasts. Under One Roof will also provide positive, accessible space for public events: book launches, meetings, poetry readings, and lunch hour speaker series.

"The response has been overwhelmingly positive and demonstrates conclusively that Ottawa is ready for Under One Roof. A healthy collaborative workplace with deep community ties is a key part of the work life balance that people crave. This is precisely what Under One Roof is all about," concludes Touchette.

Spaces are still available but going fast. For more information contact Diane Touchette (at 613-883-1341 dianet@policyalternatives.ca) or Sharon Fernandez (at 613 236-5524 share6662002@yahoo.com).