The Waterstone, Mamele’awt Qweesome

There are so many hurdles in developing housing long before the first brick is ever laid. It really does take a village, in the case of affordable housing an entire city and province is needed too. When it comes to developing it can be very difficult to get everyone on board. That’s one of the most admirable aspects about Mamele’awt Qweesome Housing Society’s (MQHS) latest project, is that all hands were on deck.

The Waterstone began as a vision of an urban village, a walkable residential multipurpose development to address affordable housing needs in Chilliwack. MQHS was determined to bring this vision to life. The project approvals from the Urban Village from Chilliwack only took about 6 weeks to come together. “What stands out about this project is the anonymous support and zero opposition from the city of Chilliwack. It was a delight working with them’ said Janice Silver, Chief Executive Officer of MQHS. From the Mayor’s office, to city councillors, MLA’s and ministers The Waterstone was ceaselessly promoted and advocated for. This project really embodies the power of innovation and collaboration. Matched by MQHS’ determination, the project was a force to be reckoned with from the get go.

The Waterstone is rooted in Indigenous culture from the design to development but will be a place that will be welcoming to the entire community. The striking 6 story building will offer 80 affordable units with 1 to 4 bedrooms available. Located centrally in Chilliwack on Yale Road it provides easy accessibility for residents to transit and shops. MQHS is currently in the process of proposing an Aboriginal Head Start Day Care program within the building, for Indigenous families with infants and toddlers. Set to open its doors in early 2019 the Waterstone will offer tenants more than just a roof over their heads but a home that celebrates Indigenous culture and welcomes diversity.

MQHS has evolved from a grassroots organization meeting the on-the-ground needs of rural-to-urban Aboriginal peoples to a cutting-edge leader who embraces a holistic approach to meeting the needs of their community. For more information about MQHS please click here.