



## NEWS RELEASE

**Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region receives \$30,000 commitment from Economical Insurance in association with Advocate Insurance Group**

*Funds will facilitate privacy in a new counselling and observation room*

Cambridge, ON, March 2, 2015 – Women and children turn to [Women's Crisis Services](#), the only agency of its kind in the Waterloo region, to find refuge and safety when they are fleeing from domestic abuse and violence in their lives. Thanks to a \$30,000 commitment over three years from [Economical Insurance](#), in association with [Advocate Insurance Group](#), the counselling and observation room in the new Haven House will include a one-way mirrored window to create an environment conducive to healing, dignity and privacy.

“Thanks to Economical’s generosity, we will be able to provide a safe and secure environment for clinical therapy, psychological counselling and evaluation, and other services for generations of residents in our region who seek our help,” said Mary Zilney, Women’s Crisis Services of Waterloo Region’s chief executive officer. “With 45 beds at the rebuilt Haven House, it is imperative that we have space to properly care for the mental health and emotional wellbeing of those in crisis.”

“Here at Economical, we’re proud to contribute to making this private and secure space a reality,” said Robert Gow, Economical’s vice-president of sales and distribution for Ontario. “As our region grows, regrettably so does the need for safe shelter. Providing adequate counselling in a specifically designed and equipped space is a positive step towards a healthier and safer life for clients in our community.”

Therapists, clinical psychologist, residential and outreach workers and community partners will use this space to guide, teach, strengthen and support our clients and ensure they can fully participate in counselling and therapy as they plan for a new life free from abuse.

“We’re delighted to be associated with Economical’s generous multi-year investment in the safety and privacy of many women and children,” said Char Heaman, vice-president of Advocate Insurance Group. “Economical has a long history of giving back to communities across the country and this donation will certainly have a long-term impact right here in Waterloo Region.”

In 2014 alone, Haven House provided 9,989 days of residential care to 184 women and children from Waterloo Region who sought emergency shelter.

#### **About Women’s Crisis Services**

Women’s Crisis Services is a long standing not-for-profit charitable organization which operates two emergency shelters for abused women and their children: Haven House and Anselma House. The histories of both Haven House and Anselma House in Waterloo Region date back to 1978. Up until 2001 Haven House and Anselma House operated as two separate organizations. In 2001 Haven House and Anselma House merged to form Women’s Crisis Services of Waterloo Region. At that time, the Board of Directors merged and one Executive Director was assigned to manage both facilities. Currently the organization operates a total of 75 beds plus a regional outreach program.

#### **About Economical Insurance**

Founded in 1871, Economical Insurance is one of Canada’s leading property and casualty insurers, with \$2.0 billion in annual premium volume and \$5.2 billion in assets as at September 30, 2014. Based in Waterloo, this Canadian-owned and operated group services the insurance needs of more than one million customers across the country. In 2010, Economical announced its decision to become the first federally-regulated mutual property and casualty insurance company to pursue demutualization. Economical Insurance conducts business under the following brands: Economical Insurance, Economical, Western General, Economical Select, Perth Insurance, Family Insurance Solutions, Federation Insurance and Economical Financial.

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