

## INFORMATION SHEET

### The Lahaie-Spencer family

The Lahaie-Spencers have four children: one 13-year boy, Mathieu, and three girls, Karolane, Marianick and Carrie-Anne, respectively aged 12, 10 and 6. Kieran Spencer works in Research & Development for Idilia, a company located in downtown Montreal. Isabelle Lahaie, his wife, takes care of their home and raises their children. Both parents do volunteer work for a country-dancing social club.

This is a reconstituted family, so two of the children live with their parents on a permanent basis while the other two spend every other weekend home. A few years ago, the family had to move seven times in one year.

The Lahaie-Spencer family presently lives in a two-bedroom flat, with access to a basement room. The apartment is too small when all four children are home. For the moment, one child sleeps on a sofa bed in the living room. The room's ceiling leaks when it rains.

Two of the children share a 7 feet x 10 feet bedroom furnished with bunk beds.

The six-year old girl's bedroom is in the basement. She shares the humid and badly-heated room with her father's office space. This room's ceiling also has leakage problems.

The apartment's electric system is in bad shape and gets no maintenance, which makes life in the apartment hazardous. As it is, only one household appliance at a time can be used in the kitchen, otherwise the breaker overloads. The bathroom has been partially renovated but the plumbing still causes problems.

The landlord has started renovating the outside, but he has also sent a letter to the family, informing them that he intends to take back the apartment in the spring of 2008.

It would not be easy for this family to find an apartment large enough to house a family of 2 adults and 4 children.

With the parents becoming homeowners, the family can be permanently housed under one roof, in order to give back a sense of security and stability to the four children.

– 30 –

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