



From left: Michelle Giblak, Wayne Klassen, and Bob Trobak. The Northern Metallic Group of Companies made a \$10,000 donation to the North Peace Seniors Housing Society, kickstarting the organization's fundraising campaign for its Apartment Five. Photo By Matt Preprost

Plans for a fifth apartment of seniors housing in Fort St. John got a \$10,000 kickstart on Thursday.

The Northern Metallic Group of Companies made the donation to the North Peace Seniors Housing Society, kickstarting the organization's fundraising campaign for the estimated \$3.5-million facility.

"It's a huge step forward. You have to cook a lot of hamburgers to make \$10,000 profit," society treasurer Bob Trobak said with a laugh after receiving the donation.

"Corporate donations, or personal donations from individuals are more than welcome and they will be going to a good use."

The non-profit society has more than 130 people on its waiting list, and the list grows by the day, Trobak said.

The society is looking to build Apartment Five on the land of the former Elks seniors' home at 111 Avenue and 98 Street. Preliminary plans have already been

completed, though its too soon to say how many units will be built.

The society is looking to build up its treasury for the project before approaching government agencies for support.

"We thought we should have some funds available so we can go there saying, "This is what we've done. We've got the land, we've got the plans, we have X number of dollars. We're committed to this and we'd just like some assistance," Trobak said.

Wayne Klassen, general manager of Northern Metallic Hose and Rigging, said the company made the donation with the future of the community in mind.

"More and more people are actually deciding to retire here and aren't moving south as much as they used to, and so we definitely need the housing," Klassen said.

"We think this is important for our seniors ... and we're all headed that direction, it might be something that we're going to be wanting to move into a few years from now," he added with a laugh.

Northern Metallic has donated between \$40,000 to \$50,000 to the seniors housing society over the last number of years.

He hopes other corporate partners in the community will get on board to support the society's initiative.

"It's a community endeavour and there's a lot of local people, long-term people we would be helping out in this," he said.

"It's community based. I can't see why people wouldn't get on board with it."