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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Taproot sells to its 750 employees in Canada's largest Employee Ownership Trust *Community support organization first EOT in social services sector*

VANCOUVER, B.C. —Today, Maple Ridge, B.C.-based Taproot Community Support Services announced that an Employee Ownership Trust (EOT) has acquired a majority share of the business, providing all employees an equal share in the company. Taproot is the first organization in the social services sector, and the largest in the country, to become EOT-owned since the federal government introduced EOTs in Canada in 2024, along with a \$10-million tax exemption for capital gains realized from the sale of a business to an EOT.

"This is the next natural step in the evolution of our company," said Mike Fotheringham, Taproot's CEO. "Becoming an EOT brings our inclusive values to life, makes all our employees true partners in our purpose-driven success, and ensures our company will remain locally grounded and Canadian-owned for the long term."

"Taproot's move to an Employee Ownership Trust is a game changer. It not only secures its future and empowers its team, but it also guarantees that the vital services children, youth and adults depend on will continue. This is a perfect example of what EOTs can do: they're a powerful, timely tool that helps Canadian employees become owners of the businesses they work for while helping entrepreneurs find the right people to carry their legacy forward," said the Minister of Finance of Canada, the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne.

Taproot provides support services to adults with diverse abilities, as well as vulnerable youth and families. It is a Certified B Corporation, which must meet rigorous social and environmental standards. With approximately 750 employees across British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario, and 2024 revenues of \$54.3 million, Taproot is the nation's largest EOT.

Prior to the transition, Taproot was owned by a group of approximately 30 longtime and prior employees, some of whom were retired. Canada's introduction of EOTs created a succession pathway that put the organization's future into the hands of its workforce. Now every employee will have a stake in the business.

"We've worked hard, so it's really nice to be rewarded for that, especially as frontline workers," said Talica Bautarua, a community support worker at Taproot. "It feels like we're in it together more now."

Through the EOT, each Taproot employee receives an equal ownership stake at no cost to them. The portion of dividend payments each employee receives will be based on the number of hours they worked during the given fiscal year.

About Taproot

Founded in 1983, Taproot Community Support Services provides personalized and culturally responsive programs for youth, adults and families in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario. Supporting nearly 2,000 clients a year across 70 program sites, Taproot's programs are accredited by several provincial and national bodies, including CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities). Taproot was recognized by *HR Director* as one of Canada's best places to work in 2025.

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