

## Home Prices in Niagara/St. Catharines Continue to See Sizeable Gains in the Second Quarter of 2018

*Affordability in Niagara/St. Catharines continues to attract young families, retirees and new Canadians to the region*

**NIAGARA/ST.CATHARINES, July 10, 2018** – According to the Royal LePage House Price Survey<sup>1</sup> and Market Survey Forecast released today, the aggregate price of a home in the Niagara/St. Catharines region continued to increase in the second quarter of 2018, rising 10.8 per cent year-over-year to \$400,993.

When broken out by housing type, the median price of a two-storey home rose 12.8 per cent year-over-year to \$424,671 in the second quarter of 2018, while the price of a bungalow rose by 8.3 per cent year-over-year to \$373,638.

“Niagara and St. Catharines are attractive destinations for young homebuyers seeking an affordable alternative to the Greater Toronto Area, and we are seeing this demand continue to put upward pressure on local home prices,” said Brad Johnstone, broker of record, Royal LePage Niagara Real Estate Centre. “It’s becoming more commonplace for employers to implement flexible workplace policies, allowing young families to purchase a home in more affordable regions and commute into Toronto a few days a week. In addition, retirees from across Ontario continue to look here when downsizing, while international student programs have brought new Canadians to the region.”

Looking ahead to the third quarter of 2018, the Niagara/St. Catharines region is expected to see healthy single-digit year-over-year growth as the year progresses.

Nationally, price appreciation slowed across Canada in the second quarter of 2018, marked primarily by softness in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), where many regions have witnessed year-over-year price declines.

“It was a spring market that never blossomed,” said Phil Soper, president and CEO, Royal LePage. “As anticipated in our original 2018 forecast, the new federal mortgage stress-test measures slowed the market to a standstill in much of the country, as some families adjusted their expectations in a world with lower borrowing capacity, and others not impacted by the OSFI regulations moved to the sidelines, adopting a ‘wait and see what happens to home prices’ approach.”

The Royal LePage National House Price Composite, compiled from proprietary property data in 63 of the nation’s largest real estate markets, showed that the price of a home in Canada increased 2.0 per cent year-over-year to \$613,968 in the second quarter of 2018. When broken out by housing type, the median price of a two-storey home rose 0.8 per cent year-over-year to \$720,504, while the median price of a bungalow climbed 1.8 per cent to \$512,979. At a national level, condominiums posted a significantly higher rate of appreciation when compared to the

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<sup>1</sup> Aggregate prices are calculated using a weighted average of the median values of all housing types collected. Data is provided by RPS Real Property Solutions.

detached segment, rising 8.1 per cent year-over-year to \$435,421. Looking ahead, Royal LePage is projecting an uptick in home price appreciation in the third quarter and forecasts that the aggregate price of a home in Canada will increase 1.9 per cent over the next three months.

“The market has begun to absorb and adjust to the new realities; we expect an uptick in sales volumes and prices during the second half of 2018,” Soper continued. “The fundamentals have not changed. The economy is strong and unemployment is very low. We face shortages in our major cities, with many more people looking for homes than the market has available for purchase or rent. Upward pressure on prices will likely return to most markets this quarter.”

### **About the Royal LePage House Price Survey**

The Royal LePage House Price Survey provides information on the three most common types of housing in Canada, in 63 of the nation’s largest real estate markets. Housing values in the House Price Survey are based on the Royal LePage National House Price Composite, produced quarterly through the use of company data in addition to data and analytics from its sister company, RPS Real Property Solutions, the trusted source for residential real estate intelligence and analytics in Canada. Commentary on housing and forecast values are provided by Royal LePage residential real estate experts, based on their opinions and market knowledge.

### **About Royal LePage**

Serving Canadians since 1913, Royal LePage is the country’s leading provider of services to real estate brokerages, with a network of almost 18,000 real estate professionals in more than 600 locations nationwide. Royal LePage is the only Canadian real estate company to have its own charitable foundation, the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation, dedicated to supporting women’s and children’s shelters and educational programs aimed at ending domestic violence. Royal LePage is a Brookfield Real Estate Services Inc. company, a TSX-listed corporation trading under the symbol TSX:BRE.

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