PRESS RELEASE

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CMHC Helps Canadian Builders Explore Opportunities in United Kingdom

OTTAWA, Ontario, May 24, 2001 — Thirteen Canadian companies will be led by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) on a business mission to the United Kingdom, May 30 to June 1, Jean-François Martin, CMHC's Vice-President of Communications, Marketing and Export Development announced today. The mission has been organized by CMHC in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT).

"CMHC is interested in helping the Canadian housing industry access the United Kingdom market by partnering with the British industry," said Martin. "Despite the distance that divides us, Canada and the UK share common interests in providing affordable, quality homes for people in our communities and our countries. There is much we can offer and much we can learn from each other."

Construction in the UK is rapidly changing from traditional, site-based, masonry dominated housing production to more efficient off-site manufactured products and components. Approximately 190,000 are built annually with wood frame construction having an eight per cent overall share.

New building regulations requiring higher thermal insulation and greater energy efficiency will be phased in over the next few years in the UK and are likely to be more difficult to achieve with traditional masonry construction than with wood frame. Canadian companies will have significant opportunities for partnerships and for increasing export of housing-related products and services since Canada is recognized by the UK government and industry as having excellent housing systems and products.

Jason Kee of the Canadian High Commission in London, England, said, "The design flexibility of Canadian frame housing means UK builders can adapt these techniques to suit the needs of their clientele while taking advantage of its affordability and speed of construction to gain a competitive edge."

As part of the mission to the UK, Canadian companies will assess firsthand opportunities for their products and services through a market orientation session with the local housing industry and meetings with buyers and potential partners. They will also visit construction sites to view typical construction practices and will have the opportunity to develop networks and relationships with UK building professionals.

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Canadian companies participating in Mission to the UK, May 30 - June 1, 2001:

1. **Heritage Flooring Ltd**. Atlantic

2. **Interhabs Ltd .** Atlantic

3. **Fermco Industries Ltd.** Quebec

4. **Modulex Inc.** Quebec

5. **Venmar** Quebec

6. **DAC International Inc.** Ontario

7. **Canadiana Homes Inc.** Ontario

8. **Timber Specialties Co.** Ontario

9. **Valhalla Engineered Homes Corp.** Ontario

10. **Heritage Timberframes** Prairies

11. **Nu-Fab Building Products Ltd.** Prairies

12. **Douglas Manufactured Homes Ltd.** BC

13. **Linwood Homes Ltd.** BC