



PRESS RELEASE



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Developer Breaks Ground on Laebon CHESSE EQUilibrium Demonstration House in Red Deer

RED DEER, Alberta, June 08, 2007 — The Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, and Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) announced the ground breaking of an EQUilibrium demonstration home today.

The Laebon Canadian Housing Energy Sustainable Solutions (CHESSE) Project will be built in Red Deer, Alberta as part of CMHC's EQUilibrium sustainable housing initiative.

"Canada's New Government is proud to partner with the private sector to develop energy-efficient homes and congratulates the Laebon Developments project team on the start of their construction," said Minister Solberg. "EQUilibrium aims to reduce the impact of housing on the environment by conserving energy and other resources, and reducing pollutant emissions. These houses will be healthy to live in, will be designed to produce as much energy as they consume on an annual basis, and will be a blueprint for the next generation of sustainable housing in Canada."

The CHESSE Concept Home is a highly resource- and energy-efficient bungalow tailored to meet the unique climate challenges of central Alberta.

"The CHESSE house was designed in response to consumer demand for healthy and environmentally friendly housing and is extremely flexible to changes in the needs and preferences of homeowners. We are thrilled to be able to bring this to the market," said Gayle Wood, Project Coordinator.

CMHC's EQUilibrium housing initiative demonstrates a new approach to housing in Canada. It brings together the principles of occupant health and comfort, energy efficiency, renewable energy production, resource and water conservation, and reduced environmental impact under one roof.

The 12 project teams who won CMHC's national EQUilibrium competition earlier this year are now turning their design concepts into real homes. Each EQUilibrium team will receive \$60,000 from CMHC to offset eligible costs, including those related to documenting the projects, testing, and demonstrating the homes publicly.

In addition, CMHC will work with the winning teams to provide technical and promotional support, including market research. CMHC will also support performance monitoring of the EQUilibrium homes under actual living conditions. The demonstration homes will be open to Canadians to view by 2008, after which CMHC will explore opportunities to advance EQUilibrium housing principles more broadly across the housing industry.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has been Canada's national housing agency for more than 60 years. CMHC is committed to helping Canadians access a wide choice of quality, environmentally sustainable, affordable homes, while making vibrant, healthy communities and cities a reality across the country.

Lesley Harmer
Director of Communications
Office of the Honourable Monte Solberg
Minister of Human Resources
and Social Development
819-994-2482

Gayle Wood
Project Manager
Laebon CHESS Project
403-346-7215

Michele Klein
Marketing Consultant
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
(Prairies and Territories)
403-515-2903