



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **EcoCité — Sodero Developments Breaks Ground on EQUilibrium Demonstration House in Quebec**

**VERDUN, Quebec, June 19, 2007** — The Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, and Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) announced the groundbreaking of an EQUilibrium demonstration home today.

Abondance Montréal will be built in the Montréal borough of Verdun 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 Abondance Montréal 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."

Abondance Montréal is a two-phase, 20-unit multi-family residential development. The first phase of the development, a triplex, is part of the EQUilibrium housing initiative. Using solar electric, geothermal and solar hot water technologies, the three condos in this triplex have been designed to produce more energy than they consume annually. The design also includes other important environmental considerations such as: healthy indoor air, environmentally friendly materials, water efficiency and sustainable transportation. The building has a shared rooftop terrace and a rear garden court. Located just a short walk to the Lasalle metro station, occupants can walk, bike and take public transportation.

"Abondance Montréal has been a real team effort from the beginning, involving some of the top green building specialists in Montréal, and everyone is very excited to see it start construction," says Ms. Cheryl Gladu, partner in EcoCité Developments. "We've already heard from many people who want to live in condos like these and once the construction is complete, I can imagine many similar projects popping up across Canada and even further a field. This is just the beginning of multi-family, zero-energy housing in Canada."

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.

As Canada's national housing agency, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) draws on over 60 years of experience to help Canadians access a variety of quality, environmentally sustainable, and affordable homes — homes that will continue to create vibrant and healthy communities and cities across the country.

**For more information, visit [www.cmhc.ca](http://www.cmhc.ca) or call 1-800-668-2642.**

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