



PRESS RELEASE



Canadian Mortgage News - National Archive 2009

Green Dream Home EQUilibrium™ Demonstration Project Starts Construction in Kamloops

KAMLOOPS, British Columbia, July 24, 2009 — The Government of Canada today marked the start of construction of the Green Dream Home demonstration project, an energy-efficient and environmentally friendly home to be built in Kamloops.

The home will be constructed by the Canadian Home Builders' Association Central Interior (CHBA CI), in partnership with Thompson Rivers University (TRU), as part of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC's) EQUilibrium™ Sustainable Housing Demonstration Initiative, which encourages builders and developers to build the next generation of sustainable housing in Canada.

Cathy McLeod, Member of Parliament for Kamloops – Thompson – Cariboo, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and Minister Responsible for CMHC, was joined today by Darryl Caunt, President, CHBA CI, and Dr. Ulrich Scheck, Provost and Vice-President Academic, TRU, along with sponsors and supporters in the ground-breaking of the first demonstration home of its kind in British Columbia.

“The Government of Canada is pleased to work with the private sector to develop such innovative homes. We congratulate CHBA CI and TRU on their winning design/concept and commitment to environmental responsibility,” said MP McLeod. “The Kamloops Green Dream Home gives people in this region an opportunity to see first-hand how we can create beautiful, healthy homes, conserve energy and resources, and reduce pollutant emissions.”

The Kamloops Green Dream Home will integrate optimal solar orientation, energy efficiency and renewable energy systems into its design and construction, in addition to using natural materials with low levels of pollutants. To reduce water use, rainwater will be captured and drought-resistant native plants will be used on the site. The Green Dream Home will be built primarily by TRU students as part of their training program. Once completed, the home will be open for public tours and then raffled off to raise funds for a local charity.

“We are proud that this project will showcase leading innovations in home energy efficiency and environmental responsibility for our local community, and serve as an example for similar projects across the country,” said Darryl Caunt.

“The Green Dream Home is an amazing opportunity for Thompson Rivers University students and faculty to be involved in a project that integrates all the elements that define TRU as the university of choice for environmental sustainability, career success and student engagement,” said Dr. Scheck. “The practical experience gained by participating in this initiative will enable our graduates to pursue careers as future leaders who will help Canadians develop and live in sustainable communities.”

The Green Dream Home is one of 15 projects that won CMHC's national EQUilibrium™ sustainable housing competitions since the initiative was launched in 2006. All EQUilibrium™ projects will be open to both the general

Canadian Mortgage News - Green Dream Home EQUilibrium™ Demonstration Project Starts Construction ...

public and professional audiences for tours, and then monitored for performance by CMHC for one year, once occupied.

CMHC's EQUilibrium™ Sustainable Housing Demonstration Initiative provides a new approach to housing in Canada, representing a fundamental change in the way Canadians think about their homes. It strives to balance our housing needs with environmental concerns. It brings together — under one roof — the principles of occupant health and comfort, energy efficiency, renewable energy production, resource and water conservation, and reduced environmental impact.

CMHC has worked closely with many stakeholders to develop and deploy EQUilibrium™. In particular, CMHC has collaborated closely with Natural Resources Canada which has contributed substantial research and development expertise and resources to advancing the initiative.

As Canada's national housing agency, CMHC draws on more than 60 years of experience to help Canadians access a variety of quality, environmentally sustainable, and affordable homes — homes that will continue to create vibrant, healthy communities and cities across the country. For more information, call 1-800-668-2642.

For broadcast: Today marked the start of construction for the Kamloops Green Dream Home, an energy-efficient and environmentally friendly home to be built in Kamloops, British Columbia by Canadian Home Builders' Association Central Interior and Thompson Rivers University. This is part of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's EQUilibrium™ Sustainable Housing Demonstration Initiative, which encourages builders and developers to build the next generation of sustainable housing in Canada. All EQUilibrium™ projects will be open to both the general public and professional audiences for tours, and then monitored for performance by CMHC for one year, once occupied.

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