



Press Release

Montréal, October 29, 2008

Construction begins on Canada's First 100% Solar Powered Condominiums!

Work began this week to dig the insulated foundation and geothermal wells for Abondance Montreal – le Soleil, a new triplex that will meet all of its energy needs through solar energy, ground source heat pumps and a highly efficient building envelope design.

Abondance Montreal – Le Soleil is a winning project in the EQUilibrium™ Sustainable Housing Demonstration Initiative created and led by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). Abondance is also part of the Canadian Green Building Council's (CaGBC) LEED for Homes pilot project

"We have assembled a design and building team who are committed to demonstrating the highest quality ecological construction project that will influence the Quebec building industry for years to come," notes Cheryl Gladu, Abondance Montreal President, and a partner in Ecocité Developments, the developer behind the project.

"The two 250-foot wells will be used to transfer heat from the ground to three ground source heat pumps, each one dedicated to meeting the heating and cooling needs of one of the three EcoCondos®," points out Robert Deschamps of Les Constructions SODERO, the construction manager and a partner in Abondance Montreal. This highly efficient heating and ventilation system was designed by the engineers at Pageau Morel et Associés, and is being supplied and installed by Excel Climatisation.

"By insulating the slab in the basement with Styrofoam and the walls and roof with air-tight spray polyurethane (Demilec's Heatlok soya), we can significantly reduce energy losses in the basement, and save energy throughout the building," says Vouli Mamfredis of Studio MMA, the architects who envisioned this ground breaking building design. Moreover to reduce green house gasses emitted from the building, Abondance Montreal's foundations are made from high fly-ash content cement provided by Ciment St-Laurent and Béton St-Hubert.

The building will use just 20% of the amount of energy used in a typical Montreal triplex. An array of solar electric and hotwater panels on the roof, which will be tied to the Hydro Quebec grid through a net-metering account, will supply all of Abondance Montreal – le Soleil's needs, meaning the residents will have no energy bills to pay!

Le Soleil will be completed by March 2009, when a one-year demonstration and monitoring program will begin with the support of the CMHC and Hydro Quebec. Over that period one of the units will be open to the public to visit.

All Abondance Montreal's homes offer attractive living spaces that are integrated with nature and their surrounding community, providing a high degree of comfort, and plenty of light and fresh air. Other environmental features included are low-flow taps, rainwater capture and reuse, low off-gassing finishes, and high efficiency appliances. The wood for framing and finishing will be Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) certified, provided by Matériaux Coupal. A second phase, called Abondance Montreal - la Terre, is planned for the lot next door, where 17 more EcoCondos® will be constructed.



EcoCité is a Canadian leader in green residential developments. To find out more about Abondnace Montreal – le Soliel and EcoCité’s other projects, please visit our website: www.ecocite.ca

For more information on the CMHC EQUilibrium™ initiative and demonstration homes across Canada, visit www.cmhc.ca and type in the search keyword “EQUilibrium” or call CMHC at 1-800-668-2642.

Abundance Montreal is built with the support of Hydro Quebec, CMHC, Matériaux Coupal, Demilec Inc., the Canadian Gypsum Company, Matrix Energy, Wilton Aluminum Products, ECOglass, Hanson Brick, Excel Climatisation, Absoluson Inc, Béton St. Hubert and St. Lawrence Cement.

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